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THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES



TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF WILTS.

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Mines,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Minerals,	Fairs,
Towns,	Fisheries,	Markets,
Roads,	Manufactures,	Curiosities,
Rivers,	Trade,	Antiquities,
Lakes,	Commerce,	Natural History,
	Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.	

To which is prefixed,

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE,

Exhibiting

The Direct and Principal Cross Roads,

Inns and Distances of Stages, and

Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats,

Which form a

COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY:

WITH

A LIST OF THE FAIRS,

And an Index Table,

**Shewing, at One View, the Distances of all the Towns from
 London, and of Towns from each other.**

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with a

MAP OF THE COUNTY


London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,
 FOR
SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

BARNARD AND FARLEY,
Stinner-street, London.

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A TABLE

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY.

Their Distance from London, Markets, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, with the Time of the Arrival and Departure of the Post.

Towns.	Dist.	Markets.	Houses.	Inhabitants.	Post times.	Departs.
					H. M.	H.
Amesbury.....	78	Frid.	166	723	11. f.	3. a.
Bradford.....	100		346	1812	10. f.	4. 30. a.
Calne.....	91	Tues.	730	3547	7. 50. f.	8. a.
Chippenham.....	97	Sat.	668	3410	8. f.	4. a.
Corsham.....	95		478	2395	10. 15. f.	5. 50. a.
Cricklade.....	84	Sat.	276	1556	11. f.	3. a.
Devizes.....	90	M.Th.	696	3750	7. 25. f.	7. 20. a.
Great Bedwin.....	70		171	851		
Heytesbury.....	93	Thur.	198	1023	1. a.	2. 30. a.
Highworth.....	77	Wed.	480	2514	9. f.	4. a.
Hindon.....	96	Thur.	170	781		
Laycock.....	93		280	1460		
Luggershall.....	70		114	487		
Malmsbury.....	95	Sat.	237	1152		
Marlborough.....	74	Sat.	445	2579	7. f.	9. 30. a.
Mere.....	102	Thur.	436	2211	12. noon	
Melksham.....	99	Thur.	763	4110	8. 45. f.	6. 30. a.
North Bradley.....	100		149	1013		
Pewsey.....	76		229	1209		
Ramsbury.....	70		398	2495		
Salisbury.....	80	T. S.	1533	8248	7. 20. f.	6. 45. a.
Sherston.....	99		221	1141		
Steeple Ashton.....	92		140	667		
Swindon.....	83	Mon.	255	1541	10. f.	4. a.
Trowbridge.....	95	Sat.	1138	6074	10. f.	4. 30. a.
Warminster.....	97	Sat.	1014	4866	11. f.	3. a.
Westbury.....	97	Frid.	338	1799	11. f.	4. a.
Wilton.....	83	Wed.	373	1963		
Wotton Basset.....	88	Frid.	309	1340	11. f.	3. a.

The price of postage for a single letter varies from 7d. to 5d. throughout the county.

AN INDEX TABLE

*Of the Distances from Town to Town, in the
County of Wilts.*

For example, to find the Distance from Amesbury to Wotton Bassett, see Amesbury on the top, or right hand, and Wotton Bassett on the side, or left hand, carry your eye to the square where both meet, which gives the Distance.

Amesbury	Distant from London	Miles
Bradford	27	18	100	78
Calne	23	18	100	100
Chippenham	32	11	91	91
Corsham	30	7	97	97
Corsley	20	10	95	95
Cricklade	35	30	101	101
Devizes	16	13	81	81
Great Bedwin	17	34	90	90
Heytesbury	14	15	170	170
Highworth	35	34	93	93
Hindon	17	20	77	77
Laycock	23	9	96	96
Malmsbury	46	21	93	93
Marlborough	19	27	95	95
Mere	22	20	74	74
Melksham	22	5	102	102
Pewsey	12	25	99	99
Ramsbury	19	30	76	76
Salisbury	8	33	70	70
Sherston	34	17	80	80
Swindon	29	27	99	99
Trowbridge	22	3	83	83
Warminster	18	11	98	98
Westbury	20	7	97	97
Wilton	7	30	83	83
Wotton Bassett	32	22	85	85

AN INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF WILTS.

WILTSHIRE is situated in the Province of CANTERBURY and the Diocese of SALISBURY.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce & Manufactures</i>
Gloucestershire, N. W.	In length 54 miles.	29 Hundreds	34 Representatives, <i>viz.</i>	The manufacture of Superfine broad Cloths, Kerseymeres, & Fancy Cloths. Also linen, Cotton, Gloves, and Cutlery. Great numbers of Sheep and Cattle are bred in this county, and fed for the London markets.
Berkshire, N. E.	In breadth 34 miles.	304 Parishes	2 for the County	
Somersetshire, S. W.	And about 150 miles in circumference.	1 City	2 Salisbury	
Dorsetshire, S.		25 Market Towns	2 D vizes	
Hampshire, S. E.		15 Boroughs	2 Marlborough	
		29, 162 Houses	2 Chippenham	
		155, 107 Inhabitants.	2 Calne	
			2 Malmesbury	
			2 Cricklade	
			2 Hindon	
			2 Old Sarum	
			2 Heytesbury	
			2 Westbury	
			2 Wotton Bassett	
			2 Laggershall	
			2 Wilton	
			2 Downton	
			2 Great Bedwin	

The sum of 148,661*l.* was raised in this County for the Maintenance of the Poor in the year, ending Easter, 1803.

AN ITINERARY
OF ALL THE
DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS,
IN
WILTSHIRE,
IN WHICH ARE INCLUDED
**THE STAGES, INNS, AND GENTLEMEN'S
SEATS.**

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats, and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R. and L.

BATH TO HUNGERFORD.

THROUGH CHIPPENHAM, CALNE, AND MARLBOROUGH.

BATH TO			
Batheaston	2	2	
Newbridge	1	3	<i>Boundary of this county and Somerset.</i>
Box.	2	5	
Haslebury Hill	1	6	
.....	1	7	<i>Pickwick Lodge, C. Dickenson, esq. L.</i>
Lower Pickwick	1	8	<i>Pickwick-house, Geo. Searle Bayliffe, esq. L.</i>
.....	1	9	<i>Corsham-house, P. Methuen, esq. M. P.</i>
.....	3	12	<i>Ivy-house, R. Humphreys, esq. R.</i>
CHIPPENHAM ..	1	13	<i>Inns—White Hart & Angel.</i>
Derry Hill	2	15	
Red Hill	1	16	
Ragg Lane	1	17	<i>Bowwood Park, Marquis of Lansdown, R.</i>
CALNE	2	19	<i>Inns—Catherine Wheel, and White Hart.</i>
Quemerford ..	1	20	

.....	1	21	<i>Blacklands, John Merewether, esq. R.</i>
.....	1	22	<i>Compton-house, Mrs. Heneage, L.</i>
Cherhill	1	23	
Cherhill Com- mon			
.....	1	26	<i>Avebury House, — Jones, esq. Beckhampton Inn.</i>
West Kennet ..	1	27	
Overton	1	28	
Fyfield	2	30	
MARLBOROUGH	3	33	<i>Inns—Castle, Marlborough Arms.</i>
Savernake Fo- rest }	2	35	
.....	1	36	<i>Tottenham Park, Earl of Aylesbury, R.</i>
.....	1	37	<i>Ramsbury Manor, Sir F. Burdett, bart. L.</i>
Proxfield	3	40	
HUNGERFORD ..	3	43	<i>Littlecot Park, General Popham, L.</i>

BATH TO HUNGERFORD,

THROUGH MELKSHAM, DEVIZES, AND MARLBOROUGH.

BATH to			
Batheaston	2	2	
Bathford	1	3	
Ashley Wood ..			<i>Boundary of the county of Somerset.</i>
.....	1	1	
Atford	3	7	
.....	2	9	<i>Shaw Hill, S. Heatheote, esq. L.</i>
MELKSHAM	2	11	<i>Inn—King's Arms.</i>
.....	3	14	<i>Seend, A. Awdry, esq. Lady W. Seymour, R.</i>

DEVIZES.....	5	19	Inns— <i>Castle, & Black Bear.</i>
Devizes Green	1	20	<i>Southbroom-house, W. Salmon, esq. R. New Park, T. G. Eastcourt, esq. M. P. L.</i>
Beckhampton } Inn. }	6	26	<i>Avebury House, Jones, esq. L.</i>
West Kennet ...	1	27	
Overton.....	1	28	
Fyfield	2	30	
MARLBOROUGH..	3	33	Inns— <i>Castle, Marlborough Arms.</i>
Savernake Fo- rest..... }	2	35	
.....	1	36	<i>Tottenham Park, Earl of Aylesbury, R.</i>
.....	1	37	<i>Ramsbury, Sir F. Burdett, bart. L.</i>
Froxfield	3	40	
HUNGERFORD ..	3	43	Inn— <i>Bear.</i>

CHIPPENHAM TO ANDOVER,

THROUGH DEVIZES.

CHIPPENHAM to			
Derry Hill	2	2	
Red Hill	1	3	
Ragg Lane	1	4	<i>Bowwood Park, Marquis of Lansdown, L.</i>
Sandy Lane....			<i>Wetham, Rev. W. Money, L. Spy Park, R.</i>
Idith Marsh....	2	6	
.....	1	7	<i>Ford-House, — Locke, esq. L.</i>
Rowd	1	8	
DEVIZES	2	10	Inns— <i>Black Bear, and Castle.</i>
Devizes Green			
.....	1	11	<i>Southbroom-house, W. Salmon, esq. R.</i>
.....	1	12	<i>Stert, John Gale, gent. R.</i>

Lide	1	13	
.....	1	14	Wedhampton, <i>E. Poore, esq. L.</i>
.....	1	15	Connock, <i>G. Warriner, esq. L.</i>
Charlton	3	18	
Rushall	1	19	<i>Sir John M. Poore, bart. L.</i>
Uphaven	1	20	
West Everley ..	4	24	
East Everley ...	1	35	<i>Everley-house, Dugdale Astley, esq. L.</i>
	—	—	<i>Inn—Crown.</i>
Ludgershall	4	29	<i>Tidworth-house, Tho. Asheton Smith, esq. R.</i>
<i>Enter Hamp-</i>			
<i>shire }</i>	1	30	<i>Biddesden-house, Thos. Everett, esq. R.</i>
.....	1	31	<i>Rodenham, Sir John Pollen, bart. L.</i>
Cow Down	1	32	<i>Amport-house, Marquis of</i>
Weyhill	1	33	<i>Winchester, R.</i>
ANDOVER	4	37	<i>Inns—Star & Garter, White Hart, Catharine Wheel, & George.</i>
	—	—	

HUNGERFORD TO CRANBOURNE,

THROUGH SALISBURY.

<i>HUNGERFORD to</i>			
<i>Boundary of }</i>			
<i>Wilts..... }</i>	1	1	
.....	1	2	<i>Standen, G. Stonehouse, esq. R.</i>
Westcomb Hill .	5	7	
Collingborn }			
Sheer }	3	10	
.....	4	14	<i>Tidworth-house, Tho. Asheton Smith, esq. L.</i>
.....	4	10	<i>Bulford, R. D. Southby, esq. L.</i>
Beacon Hill. ...	2	20	<i>Amesbury House, Marquis of</i>
Amesbury Down			<i>Douglas, R.</i>
.....	5	25	<i>Old Sarum.</i>

SALISBURY.....	2	27	Inns— <i>Antelope, White Hart, King's Arms, Black Horse, Red Lion, and Three Swans.</i>
East Harnham	1	28	
Harnham Hill			
Coombe Basset	2	30	
Coombe Com } mon. }			
Tippett	5	35	
Enter Dorset ...	1	36	
CRANBORNE	2	33	Inn— <i>Shaftesbury Arms.</i>

HIGHWORTH TO FORDINGBRIDGE,

THROUGH SWINDON, MARLBOROUGH, AND SALISBURY.

HIGHWORTH to	2	2	<i>Warnford Place, Rev. Dr. Wanford, L. Stanton-house, R.</i>
Stratton	1	3	
Stratton Green	1	4	
.....	1	5	<i>Swindon-house, Mrs. Goddard, L.</i>
SWINDON.	1	6	Inns— <i>Bell, and the Crown.</i>
Wroughton	2	8	<i>W. Codrington, esq. R.</i>
.....	1	9	<i>Burderop-house, Thos. Calley, esq. L. Overton, H. Bullock, esq. R.</i>
Barbury Down	3	12	
MARLBOROUGH	4	16	Inns— <i>Castle, Marlborough Arms.</i>
Savernake Fo- } rest..... }	2	18	
.....	4	20	<i>Tottenham Park, Earl of Aylesbury, L.</i>
Steep Green....	1	21	
Burbage	1	22	
East Everly....	6	28	<i>Everly-house, Fra. Dugdale, Astley, esq. R.</i>
			Inn— <i>The Crown.</i>

Salisbury Plain			
Old Sarum	13	41	
SALISBURY.....	2	43	Inns— <i>Antelope, White Hart,</i>
	—	—	<i>King's Arms, Black Horse,</i>
			<i>Red Lion, & Three Swans.</i>
Bodenham	2	45	<i>Longford Castle, Earl of</i>
			<i>Radnor, L.</i>
.....	1	46	<i>New Hall, J. T. Batt, esq. R.</i>
Charlton Street	1	47	<i>Standlinch-house, Lord Nelson,</i>
.....	1	48	<i>Barford-House, W. L. [L.</i>
			<i>Brouncker, esq. L.</i>
Week	1	49	<i>Downton-House, Capt. Archer,</i>
			<i>L.</i>
<i>Enter Hamp- } shire</i>	1	50	
.....	1	51	<i>Hale-house, Mrs. May, L.</i>
			<i>Breamore-house, Sir Edward</i>
Breamore	1	52	<i>Hulse, bart. R.</i>
Burgate.....	2	54	<i>Burgate-house, Hon. C. Bul-</i>
FORDINGBRIDGE	1	55	<i>keley, L.</i>
	—	—	<i>Inn—The Greyhound.</i>

MALMSBURY TO SHAFTESBURY,

THROUGH CHIPPENHAM, MELKSHAM, WESTBURY, AND
WARMINSTER.

MALMSBURY to			
.....	1	1	<i>Cole Park, P. Lovell, esq. L.</i>
Corston	1	2	
Lower Stanton } St. Quinton }	2	4	
.....	1	5	<i>Draycot-house, Lady Catha-</i>
			<i>rine Long, L.</i>
.....	2	7	<i>Langley-house, R. Ashe, esq. L.</i>
.....	2	9	<i>Harden Huish, S. Branthwyt,</i>
			<i>esq. R.</i>
CHIPPENHAM . .	1	10	<i>Monkton-house, Esmead Ed-</i>
	—	—	<i>ridge, esq. L.</i>
			<i>Inn—White Hart, & Angel</i>

12	ITINERARY OF THE	
Notton	2 12	Notton-house, Major Astley, R. <i>Lackham, G. Montague, esq. L.</i>
Laycock	1 13	
Benecar	2 15	
MELKSHAM	1 16	Inn— <i>King's Arms.</i>
Sevington	3 19	
.....	3 22	<i>Rowd Ashton, R. Long, esq. L.</i>
.....	2 24	<i>Heywood-house, Ludlow, esq. L.</i>
WESTBURY	1 25	Inn— <i>Lord's Arms.</i>
Westbury Leigh	3 28	— <i>Phipps, esq. R.</i>
WARMINSTER ...	1 29	Inns— <i>Angel and Lord's Arms.</i>
Sambourn	1 30	
Crockerton	1 31	
Longbridge } Deveril }	1 32	
East Knoyle ..	7 39	
.....	1 40	<i>Pyt-house, John Benet, esq. L.</i>
.....	2 42	<i>Motcombe, Mrs. Whitaker, R.</i>
<i>Enter Dorset-</i> <i>shire</i>		
SHAFTESBURY ..	2 44	Inns— <i>Three Swans and Red Lion.</i>

FROM TO SALISBURY,

THROUGH WARMINSTER.

FROM to			
Wall Bridge	1	1	
Minety Bridge	1	2	
<i>Enter Wiltshire</i>	1	3	<i>Longleat, Marq. of Bath, R.</i>
Corsley Heath ..			
Whitburn	1	4	
Buckley	1	5	
WARMINSTER ...	2	7	Inns— <i>The Angel and Lord's Arms.</i>

Boreham	2	9	
.....	1	10	<i>Bishopstrow-house, Mrs. Temple.</i>
.....	1	11	<i>Norton-House, J. Benet, esq. R.</i>
HEYTESBURY ..	1	12	<i>Heytesbury-House, Sir W.</i>
Lower Knooke ..	1	13	<i>A'Court, bart. L.</i>
Codford St. } Peter }	2	15	
Codford St. } Mary..... }	1	16	
Deptford Inn ..	2	18	<i>Deptford Inn.</i>
.....	1	19	<i>Bathampton-house, William</i>
SteepleLangford	1	20	<i>Moody, esq. R.</i>
Stapleford	1	22	
Stoford	1	23	
South Newton..	1	24	
Wilton	1	25	<i>Wilton-House, Earl of Pembroke, R.</i>
Foulston	1	26	
.....	2	28	<i>Bemerton, Rev. Canon Coxe, R.</i>
SALISBURY.	1	29	<i>Inns—Antelope, White Hart, King's Arms, Black Horse, Red Lion, & Three Swans.</i>

FROME TO DEVIZES,

THROUGH TROWBRIDGE AND SEEND.

FROME to			
.....	1	1	<i>North hill, T. B. Winter, esq. R.</i>
			<i>Frome Fields, P. Stevens, esq. L.</i>
Oakford	1	2	
Beckington	1	3	<i>Standerwick Court, Mrs. Edgell R.</i>
Rode	2	5	<i>Boundary of the County of Somerset.</i>
Southwick	3	8	
Upper Studley	1	9	

14	ITINERARY OF THE	
TROWBRIDGE....	1	10 Inns— <i>Three Wool Packs, and George.</i>
Hilperton	2	12
Littleton	2	14
.....	1	15 <i>Seend Rew, T. Locke, esq. L.</i>
SEEND.		<i>Ambrose Andry, esq. R.</i>
Seed Green	1	16 <i>Lady W. Seymour.</i>
DEVIZES.....	4	20 Inns— <i>Black Bear, & Castle.</i>

SHAFTESBURY TO SALISBURY.

SHAFTESBURY to			
<i>Boundary of</i> }	1	1	
<i>Wilts.....</i> }			
Ludwell.....	1	2	
.....	1	3	<i>Donhead Hall, W. Burlton, esq.</i>
.....			<i>L. Fern. T. Grove, esq. R.</i>
.....	2	5	<i>Wardour Castle, Lord Arundell,</i>
White Sheet Hill	1	6	<i>L. Ashcombe, Hon.</i>
Salisbury Plain			<i>J. E. Arundell. R.</i>
.....	6	12	<i>Compton-house, John H. Pen-</i>
Salisbury Race }	4	16	<i>ruddocke, esq. L.</i>
<i>Course</i> }			
Harnham Hill	2	18	
East Harnham			
SALISBURY.....	1	19	Inns— <i>Antelope, White Hart,</i>
	—	—	<i>King's Arms, Black Horse,</i>
			<i>Red Lion, & Three Swans.</i>

FROME TO SWINDON,

THROUGH WESTBURY AND DEVIZES.

FROME to			
<i>Boundary of</i> }	2	2	
<i>Wilts.....</i> }			
Chapmanslade..	1	3	
Westbury Leigh	3	6	— <i>Phipps, esq. L.</i>
WESTBURY	1	7	Inn— <i>Lord's Arms.</i>
	—	—	

Bratton	2	9	<i>W. Aldridge Ballard, esq. L.</i>
Edington	1	10	
.....	1	11	<i>Baynton, W. Long, esq. L.</i>
.....	2	13	<i>Stoke Park, J. Smith, esq. M. P. L.</i>
Little Cheverell	1	14	
Littleton Pannell	1	15	<i>Cleeve Hill, Capt. Bouverie, R. N. R.</i>
Pottern Wick .	2	17	
Pottern	1	18	<i>Eastwell, W. H. Grubbe, esq. L.</i>
DEVIZES	3	20	<i>Inns—Castle, and Black Bear.</i>
Devizes Green	1	21	<i>New Park, T. G. Eastcourt, esq. L.</i>
Beckhampton } Inn.....}	6	27	<i>Southbroom-house, W. Salmon, esq. L.</i>
<i>Cross the great Bath and London Road.</i>			
Avebury	1	28	<i>Arthur Jones, esq. L.</i>
Broad Hinton..	5	33	
.....	2	35	<i>Overton, H. Bullock, esq.</i>
Wroughton	1	36	
SWINDON	3	39	<i>Inns—Bell, and Crown.</i>

WINCANTON TO SALISBURY,

THROUGH MERE AND HINDON.

WINCANTON to			
<i>Enter Wiltshire</i>	3	3	
Bourton			
Silton	1	4	
.....	1	5	<i>Stourhead-house, Sir R. Colt Hoare, bart. L.</i>
.....	1	6	<i>Zeals-house, Mrs. Grove, R.</i>
MERE	1	7	<i>Inn—New.</i>

Chaddenwyck	1	8	
Down			
Willoughby	3	11	
Hedge			
HINDON	2	18	Inns— <i>Lamb, and Swan.</i>
Berwick St.	2	15	
Leonard's			
Bishop's Fonthill	1	16	<i>Fonthill Abbey, W. Beckford, esq.</i>
Chilmark	2	18	
Upper Teffont ..	1	19	
.....	1	20	<i>Marshwood-house, L. Dinton-house, W. Wyndham, esq. R.</i>
.....	1	21	<i>Compton-house, J. H. Penruddocke, esq. R.</i>
.....	1	22	<i>Hurdcot, Alex. Powell, esq. R.</i>
Barford St.	1	23	
Martin			
North Burcombe	1	24	
Ugford	1	25	
Linchinton			
Wilton	1	26	<i>Wilton-house, Earl of Pembroke, R.</i>
.....	1	27	<i>Foulston, R.</i>
.....	1	28	<i>Bemerton, Rev. Canon Coxe, R.</i>
Fisherton			
SALISBURY	1	29	Inns— <i>See page 10.</i>

BRUTON TO ANDOVER,

THROUGH DEPTFORD INN, AND AMESBURY.

BRUTON to			
Kilminster	7	7	<i>Stourhead-house, Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart. R.</i>
Enter this County	2	9	
The Hut	1	10	
Willoughby	3	13	
Hedge			

Chicklade	2	15	
New Inn	1	16	
Willey	3	19	
DEPTFORD INN, ..	1	20	<i>Deptford Inn.</i>
<i>Cross the Sarum Road.</i>			<i>Bathampton-house, William Moody, esq. R.</i>
.....	7	27	<i>Stonehenge.</i>
AMESBURY	2	29	<i>The George Inn.</i>
.....	4	33	<i>Chellerton-house, R.</i>
<i>Enter Hamp-)</i>			
<i>shire . . . }</i>	1	34	
.....	2	36	<i>Quarley-house, Bethell Cox, esq. R.</i>
Mullen Pond ..	1	37	<i>Amport-house, Marquis of Winchester, R.</i>
Weyhill	2	39	
ANDOVER	4	43	<i>Inns—Star and Garter, White Hart, Catharine Wheel and George.</i>

END OF THE ITINERARY.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF THE

FAIRS IN WILTSHIRE.

<i>Amesbury</i> —May 17. June 22, Dec. 18, horses, sheep, pigs, and horned cattle.	<i>Bradford Leigh</i> —August 25, sheep and horses; 26, a great pleasure fair.
<i>Barwick Hill, near Hindon</i> —Nov. 6, cattle, sheep, horses, swine and cheese.	<i>Britford</i> —Aug. 12, sheep and horses.
<i>Bradford</i> —Trinity Monday, cattle and millinery.	<i>Calne</i> —May 6, for horses, horned cattle, sheep and cheese; July 22, pedlary and toys.
	<i>Castle Combe</i> —May 4,

- horned cattle, sheep and horses.
- Chilmark*—July 30, cattle, sheep, pigs, cheese and horses.
- Chippenham* — May 17, June 22, October 29, December 11, cattle, sheep, pigs and horses.
- Clack*—April 5, October 10, cattle, sheep, horses, swine and cheese.
- Collingbourn Ducis*—December 11, horses, cows and sheep.
- Corsham*—March 7, Sept. 4, cattle, sheep and horses.
- Corsley Heath*—June 4, August 5, for cattle, horses and cheese.
- Cricklade*—Second Thursday in April, sheep, cows and calves. Sept. 21, chapmans' goods, and for hiring servants.
- Devizes*—Feb. 14. cattle ; Holy Thursday, cattle, horses and sheep ; April 20, a great fair for cattle, sheep, &c. July 5, wool ; October 2, sheep ; October 20, a large fair for sheep and hogs.
- Dilton Marsh*—September 24, cattle, horses and cheese.
- Downton*—April 23, Oct. 2, sheep and horses.
- Great Bedwin*—April 23, July 26, horses, cows, sheep and hardware.
- Heytesbury*—May 14, cattle, sheep and toys ; Sept. 25, toys only.
- Highworth*—August 12, October 10, 29, for all sorts of cattle, pigs, sheep and horses.
- Hindon*—May 27, Oct. 29, cattle, sheep, horses, swine and cheese.
- King's Down*, near Bath—Sept. 23, cattle, &c.
- Laycock*—July 7, cattle, &c. Dec. 21, horses, horned cattle and sheep.
- Ludgershall* — August 5, horses, cows and sheep.
- Maiden Bradley*—May 6, October 2, for cattle, horses, pigs and cheese.
- Malmsbury*—March 28, April 28, June 5, cattle and horses.
- Marlborough* — July 10, August 1, November 23, cattle, sheep, horses and pedlary.
- Melksham*—July 27, cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, cheese and pedlary.
- Mere*—May 17, Oct. 10, cattle, pigs, cheese and pedlary.
- Norlease*—April 23, cattle, horses and pedlary.

<i>North Bradley</i> —Sept. 15,	of all sorts, pigs and cattle and cheese.
<i>Pewsey</i> —September 16.	<i>Tan-Hill</i> , near Devizes—
<i>Purton</i> —Tuesday before May 6, for cattle.	August 6, horses, cheese and sheep.
<i>Ramsbury</i> —May 14, Oct. 10, horses, cows, sheep and toys.	<i>Trowbridge</i> —August 5, 6, and 7, for milliners' goods, cattle and pedlary.
<i>St. Ann's Hill, Devizes</i> —Aug. 6, horses, cheese and sheep.	<i>Uphaven</i> — October 29, horses, cows and sheep.
<i>Salisbury</i> —Monday before the Fifth of April, broad and narrow cloths; Whit-Monday and Tuesday, for pedlary and horses; Oct. 22, Twelfth-Market, horses and pedlary; Tuesday after January 6, cattle and woollen cloth.	<i>Warminster</i> — April 22, August 11, October 26, cattle, sheep, swine and cheese.
<i>Sherston</i> —May 12, Oct. 2, for oxen and fat cattle.	<i>Westbury</i> --First Friday in Lent, Easter Monday, Whit-Monday, pedlary.
<i>Steeple Ashton</i> —Sept. 19, cheese and horses.	<i>Whitchbury</i> — November 17, hogs.
<i>Swindon</i> —March 25, May 20, September 23, December 8, 23, for cattle	<i>Wilton</i> —May 4, Sept. 12, sheep.
	<i>Wotton Basset</i> —April 2, May 7, October 8, cows and pigs.
	<i>Yarborough Castle</i> —Oct. 5, cattle, sheep, horses and swine.

QUARTER SESSIONS,

FOR THE COUNTY OF WILTS,

Are held the First Week after Epiphany at DEVIZES.
The First Week after the close of Easter at SALIS-
BURY.

The First Week after the Translation of Thomas-à-Becket, or July 7, at WARMINSTER.

The First Week after Michaelmas Day at MARLBOROUGH.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

This county gives title of Earl to the Paulet family. Salisbury gives title of Marquis, to the family of Cecil. Marlborough gives title of Duke to the Spencer family. Malm-bury gives the titles of Earl and Baron to the Harris family. Calne gives the title of Viscount to the Petty family. Hindon gives the title of Baron to the Villiers family. Warminster gives the same title to the Thynne family. Caleton gives the title of Viscount to the Petty family. Foxley gives the title of Baron to the Fox-Strangeways. Stourton gives the same title to the family of Rawdon-Hastings. Lydiard Tregoze gives the same title to the St. John family. Longford the same to the Bouverie family. And Wardour Castle gives the same title to the Arundel family.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF **THE COUNTY OF WILTS.**

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

THIS county is situated in the province of Canterbury, in the diocese of Salisbury, and contains 29 hundreds 1 city, and 25 market towns. It is bounded on the north-west by Gloucestershire; on the north-east by Berkshire; on the west by Somersetshire; on the south by Dorsetshire, and on the south-west by Hampshire. According to M. T. Davis, Wiltshire extends in its extreme length, 54 miles, and in breadth 34 miles, and contains about 878,000 acres.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The air of Wiltshire, like that of other counties, is various, according to the different parts of it, but on the whole it is salubrious and agreeable. On the downs, and higher parts of the county, it is sharp and clear; in the vallies, mild, even in winter. The face of the country is much diversified in appearance: the northern part, called North Wiltshire, consisting of a rich tract of low land, accompanied by gentle risings, and ornamented by many fine natural streams of water, and handsome canals. The middle part is that known by the name of Salisbury Plain, consisting chiefly of downs, which afford a most excellent pasture for sheep. The south-east portion of the county is in a great part overspread by a broken range of chalk hills, covered, however, with a very fertile soil, and in the highest state of cultivation.

The soil of the north-west district, though not so uniform as that of South Wilts, may, nevertheless, be reduced to a few leading features, and those, in general, may be better defined by a de-

scription of the substrata, or under-soils, than by any peculiar characteristics of the upper stratum, or top mould.

The cold sharp air of the Wiltshire downs, is so well known, as to be almost proverbial. The height of the hills, and their exposure to the south-west wind, from the Bristol and British channels, the want of enclosures in the vallies, and the draught of air that necessarily follows the rivers, undoubtedly contribute to make the south-east district healthy both for man and beast; but the length of the winter consequent to such a situation, is certainly unfavourable to many of the purposes of agriculture. The climate of the north-west district is various, and though in general milder than the high lands in the South-east District, is nevertheless cold and unfavourable to the purposes of early spring vegetation, probably owing to the cold retentive nature of the under soil here.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

This county in the time of the Romans was part of the territories of the Belgæ. It is supposed that the northern part was inhabited by that tribe of the Belgæ which was distinguished by the name of Cangi; and in the time of the Saxon Heptarchy it constituted part of the kingdom of the West Saxons. It derives its present name from the town of Wilton, which was formerly the most considerable place in the county.

Population.—The Census of the year 1811, gives 37,244 inhabited houses; 91,560 males; 102,268 females; making a total of 193,828 persons.

RIVERS.

The principal rivers are the Thames, the Upper Avon, the Lower Avon, the Nadder, the Willey, the Bourne, and the Kennet.

The river Thames enters the north part of the county between Cirencester in Gloucestershire and

Tetbury, and runs eastward by Cricklade into Berkshire.

That part of the Avon called the Lower Avon, enters Wiltshire, near Malmsbury, takes a southern course by Chippenham, where it becomes enlarged by the Calne and other rivulets into a wide stream, and winding westward by Melsham and Bradford, it leaves the county, and pursues its course through Somersetshire and Gloucestershire towards Bath.

The Upper Avon rises among the hills in the middle part of the county, near Devizes, runs southward by the city of Salisbury, where it receives the united streams of the Willey and the Nadder; from hence it flows into Hampshire, and at Christchurch makes its exit into the British Channel.

The Nadder, which derives its name from the Saxon word *Nædre*, an adder, alluding to its serpentine course, rises near Shaftesbury, in Dorsetshire, upon the western borders of this county, and flowing north-east falls into the Willey at Wilton.

The Willey rises near Warminster, and running south-east, after receiving the Nadder falls into the Upper Avon on the east-side of Salisbury.

The Kennet rises near the source of the Upper Avon, and runs eastward by Marlborough, into Berkshire.

The lesser rivers of the county are the Calne, the Were, and the Deverill. This last is remarkable for the circumstance of its diving under ground (like the Guadiana in Spain, and the Mole in Surry, which take their name from a similar peculiarity) and rising a mile off pursues its course towards Warminster.

CANALS.

These are first the Thames and Severn canal, passing through a small part of the extreme south boundary of the county; 2. The Kennet and Avon canal, from the river Kennet at Newbury, in Berks,

to the river Avon at Bath, passing through the heart of the county by Devizes and Bradford. 3. The Wilts and Berks canal, which enters the county from Berkshire, near South Marston; this passes by Swinden and Wooton Bassett, and by branches to Chippenham and Calne, extends southward to Melksham, and near this place unites with the Kennet and Avon. Previous to the forming of these canals, the certainty of obtaining coals for money was doubtful.

FISHERIES.

This being an inland county, it has no particular fishery; its rivers, however, abound in various kinds of fresh-water fish.

MINES AND MINERALS.

There are no mines in this county, nor any mineral production requiring particular notice. The substratum of a great part of the county is chalk; that of the residue is free-stone and lime-stone.

At Chilmark near Hindon, there have been stones of immense size dug out of the quarries, lying in beds 60 feet long, and 12 feet thick, without a flaw.

In the parish of *Box*, about seven miles from Chippenham, upon the road to Bath, there are quarries of that beautiful stone, called the Bath stone, great quantities of which are dug up and sent to various parts of the country.

MANUFACTURES.

The extent of these in Wiltshire, is very great: but the woollen manufactory is by far the most general.

Salisbury has long been used to manufacture great quantities of flannels and fancy woollens; and has had a considerable manufactory of cutlery and steel goods. Wilton, a large manufactory of carpets and fancy woollens; Devizes, the latter, Bradford, Trowbridge, Warminster, Westbury, and all the adjacent towns and villages from Chippenham to Heytesbury inclusive, have carried on extensive

woollen manufactories, principally of superfine broad cloths, kerseymeres, and fancy cloths, linen, chiefly dowlass and bedticks have been made at Mere; fustians and thicksets, principally at Aldbourn; gloves, &c. at Swindon, and in its neighbourhood; but the whole of these have been more or less affected by the late transition from war to a state of peace.

AGRICULTURE.

In describing the agriculture of Wiltshire we shall pursue Mr. Davis's division of the county into two districts, formed by drawing an irregular line round the foot of the chalky hills, from their entrance into the north-east part of the county from Berkshire to the south-west extremity at Maiden Bradly, thereby including the whole of the Wiltshire Downs, under the name of South Wiltshire, or perhaps more properly, South-East Wiltshire, and the remaining part of the county, North, or more properly, North-West Wiltshire. The general application of the south-east district is to corn-husbandry, and sheep-walks. The north-west district is remarkable for its rich pasture land on the banks of the Down, Avon, and the Thames, famous for the feeding of cattle and still more so for the most excellent kind of cheese this island can boast.

A great number of Wiltshire members, help to compose that truly respectable body, "The Bath and West of England Society." The great design of the Board of Agriculture, is to point out every object of improvement throughout the kingdom, and upon the whole, the farmers of Wiltshire have not been the slowest to adopt them. The science of agriculture is nothing more than to discover, and cure nature's defects; and the grand outlines of it, are how to make "heavy land lighter," and "light land heavier," "cold land hotter," and "hot land colder." He that knows these secrets

is a *farmer*, and he that does not know them is no *farmer*.

WASTE LANDS.

The idea that the Wiltshire Downs (and particularly Salisbury Plain) are all "waste lands," is so general, that few who have travelled over them, especially from Devizes to Salisbury, will believe the contrary. The Wiltshire Downs are undoubtedly not "waste land," and although many inconveniences attend their present mode of occupation, yet as a great proportion of them cannot be improved by tillage, it is doubtful whether they would produce more food if laid in severalty, than they now do in their present hard stocked state; the very nature of their herbage making these downs sweeter for sheep when close fed, than if trained up like richer pastures. "Common fields," it has been observed, "may be called the worst of all wastes." Common pastures may, in some instances, be made the most of by mutual agreement, without a division, but the common fields can never be cultivated with any improvement of the land, or serious advantage to the occupier.

COW COMMONS, OR COW DOWNS.

These are frequently in the undivided parts of the north-west district, but not general. They were more general formerly than now; many of them having been, at different times, turned into sheep-commons by consent of the commoners. These cow-downs are usually the best and most level parts of the down-lands, and are sometimes worth from 5s. to near 10s. per acre.

The common herd of cows begin to feed the cow downs early in May (usually Holy-Rood-Day), and finish when the fields are clear of corn. At the beginning and end of the season, they are driven to the down in the morning, and brought back in the evening; but in the heat of summer, they are only kept on the down during the night, and in the

morning they are brought back into the villages, where they feed the lanes and small marshes by the river side (if such there be), till after the evening milking. When the stubble-fields are open, the cows have a right to feed them jointly with the sheep; and if there are common meadows (whether watered meadows or not), they have an exclusive right to feed them, till the end of the commoning season (usually St. Martin's Day), 11th November, O. S.), when the owners take them home to the straw-yards. After the cows leave the cow-down, to go into the stubble-fields, it becomes common for the sheep-flock, during all, or a certain part of the winter, when it is again laid up for the cows.

FARM-HOUSES AND OFFICES.

The situation and construction of these are less variable in South Wilts, than in many other counties. In general, they are crowded together in villages, for the convenience of water, and are therefore frequently very badly situated for the occupation of the lands. While the system of common-field husbandry existed in its original state, and every "yard-land" had its farm-house, its yard for cattle, its barns, and its stables, and the owner resided upon it—such a situation had its advantages, as well as conveniences. In the present state of that system, wherever the small farms are occupied by the owners, the buildings are usually kept in tolerable repair; but if three or four, or more of such estates, as is usually the case, are rented by one farmer, the consequence is, that all the farm-houses except the one he lives in, are left to labourers, and a great many of the out-buildings are suffered to go to decay; till lately, the villages of the district, in which the lands are not yet put into a state of severalty, have for the most part been seen in this neglected ruinous condition.

But within the last twenty-five years, the system of erecting new farm-houses, and buildings at a

distance from the villages, has been practised in a most liberal manner, for the purposes of agriculture, by the Earl of Pembroke, and other great landholders. But from the natural situation of the south district, new pastures are not easily made in these distant spots, nor is water fit for domestic uses to be obtained without serious difficulties. So that a pretty general prepossession in favour of the ancient residence of man, with the advantages arising from rivers and old pastures adjacent, will prevent any great extent of this otherwise desirable alteration of the homesteads.

SIZE OF FARMS.

The farms in severalty in the south-west district, or those not subject to the right of common, are in general from 150*l.* to 500*l.*, and a few manor farms at 1000*l.* per annum, and upwards.

The tenantry yard-lands, or customary tenements, are in general from 25*l.* to 40*l.* per annum, and a few are as high as 50*l.* Some of these are still occupied singly by the owners as copyhold, or leasehold tenants, of the respective manors, although consolidations of them have been daily taking place for many years past, partly from the heavy expenses attending such occupation, and partly from their being allowed to fall into hand to save extraordinary buildings.

LEASES.

The granting of leases in this county depends much upon soils and situations: the usual terms in the south-east district are sometimes seven years, oftener fourteen, now and then twenty-one; but of late, a term of twelve years has been thought the most eligible, as being more devisible into a regular course of sowing the arable land, and considering the disadvantages under which a Wiltshire down farm is too often entered upon, the term of a lease should never be less than twelve years. The tenant is bound to sow his lands in the course

limited by the lease; to keep up a full flock of sheep, and fold them in due course of husbandry on some part of his premises; but in the last year, as the landlord shall direct, to spend all hay straw, &c. on the premises, to spread all the dung on the same, except the dung of the last year's crop, and (if a Lady-Day bargain) the straw of the off-growing crop, which are to be left at the disposal of the landlord.

The general custom of a Wiltshire Lady-Day entry is, that the rent commences on Lady-Day, at which time the tenant enters upon all the grass ground, brings on his sheep and cows, and brings on the meadows for mowing. The usual time fixed for the entry of the new tenant, to carry out dung, and prepare for wheat, is in some parts on the 14th of May, and in others, the 24th of June.

The landlords are usually bound to repair the buildings, and the tenants the fences. The landlord puts the gates in repair, and the tenant being allowed rough timber, usually keeps them so. In some cases, a better mode is adopted, the tenant is allowed annually as many new gates as the farm is supposed to require, which he must put up and keep in repair. In some lettings, however, the tenant does all repairs of his farm, on being allowed timber, brick, tile, lime, and stone. The tenant in general is not allowed to sell hay or straw, but is obliged to expend the whole on the premises. In the south-west district, the enteries are various, some at Michaelmas, but more generally at Lady-Day.

TITHES.

These in Wiltshire are for the most part due in kind. There are few parishes in which they have been extinguished by enclosures; still fewer where any modus exists. Land, in some instances, has been given for tithes under enclosure acts, but the oblong shape of many of the manors renders this compensation disadvantageous to the land owners.

It makes a *new farm*, and by reason of the small quantity of home land, there is no room for the rector's farm; the proportion of land due for corn tithes, taking so large a slice in an arable country.

The disputes respecting tithes, and dues in lieu of them, of which common report has said so much in former days, are now but little known here. Farmers begin to see the value of them, and clergymen have had confidence in professional men, to let them for moderate terms of years to their neighbours. There are numerous instances, in some parts of Wilts, where every occupier of land rents his own tithes of the clergyman, or impropriator. A mutual regard to their own interest, has effected this desirable object, and the same principle is likely to maintain it. The tithe composition is usually fixed about once in seven years, or oftener if there be a new rector; and although it be acknowledged, that a tenant can afford to give a high price for this portion of his own produce, rather than suffer it to go off his farm; yet it must be allowed that surveyors give the clergy a very liberal compensation.

The great tithes of a considerable part of South Wilts are in lay hands; in most instances let to the occupiers of the respective farms; in some, to a proctor, who takes a whole parish in kind. It has often been noticed, and particularly by the clergy, that laymen *take up tithes* more than churchmen. The fact is admitted, but the obvious reason should accompany the assertion. Small tithes require much trouble in collecting, and breed much ill-will in a village, particularly where the produce of the yard is taken from a farmer's wife. Great tithes are collected here with peculiar ease, from the open state of the corn-fields, and the firmness of the soil to bear wheels at harvest. The interest of a farmer induces him to pay a handsome price for a part of his neighbour's crop, which is thus brought

to his barn at a trifling expense, and from which he is enabled to increase his produce by an extraordinary quantity of manure; whilst the same natural motive directs the clergyman to get rid of those difficulties which attach to a part of his dues, and if possible, to preserve the peace of his parish.

IMPLEMENTS.

The ploughs used in this county, are chiefly of two kinds, viz. the hill country two-wheeled plough, with the point of the beam elevated, and swinging upon a brace between the wheels, and the draft chain fixed almost at the centre of the beam. The one wheeled plough, so made as to be used with a foot instead of a wheel, in case the land is so wet that the wheel clogs and will not run round. These ploughs are about eight feet, or eight and a half long in the beam, and have a long mould board set at a very acute angle, with the sole of the plough, and bent so as to turn down the furrow, or rather that the furrow may drop from it as flat as possible. Many attempts have been made to introduce the Norfolk, and other light ploughs, with the double furrowed plough, &c. but without much success. The Wiltshire men, however, have redeemed themselves from the charge of being bad ploughmen. Upon many light lands where ploughing is very little required, unless to destroy weeds, Mr. Cook's instrument, called a scuffler, has been used with great success, particularly, preparatory for drilling. This will clean five or six acres of land per day.

HARROWS.

The same kind of harrow is used in Wilts, and in nearly the same manner as in all the western counties. Two or three horses go abreast, each drawing a harrow diagonally, all the harrows being fastened together with a lay-over, or rider.

DRAGS, DRILLS, &c.

A heavy kind of drag is used for cleansing the

land, the tines of which are very strong, and nearly a foot in length. This drag is made oblong, and two of them are hooked together like two doors. As Wiltshire farmers are very cautious of ploughing their land too much, they use these drags very frequently as a substitute, and frequently let in their seed wheat with them. This practice having been found to answer, these drags have been considerably improved. In soils where the use of the hoe is of much advantage, Mr. Cook's plough, so made as to be afterwards used for horse-hoeing is chiefly used.

FENCES.

Stones and lime being generally scarce in this part of the country, most of the fence walls, and sometimes the walls of the stables, and out-buildings, are constructed with "mud," viz. the chalky loam of the country mixed with short straw. The expense of these is trifling, seldom exceeding 10s. for a perch long, and six feet high. They are usually covered with straw.

ENCLOSURES.

Enclosing in many parishes in the south-west district of Wiltshire, has been carried on to an extent, unequalled in many others since 1794. Many advantages have been derived from the enclosures already made, and greater still may be derived from enclosing, or, at least, dividing and putting in severally, those lands that are yet in a state of commonage. But though every enclosure must have improvement for its object, the effects of different ones are various: in some, the population has been increased, in others, it has been diminished.

ROADS.

There are few counties in the kingdom, in which turnpike roads are so numerous, as in Wiltshire. The great thoroughfare from the east and south parts of the kingdom, and particularly from London to Bath and Bristol, and many other parts of

the west of England, pass through this county. Ten principal turnpike roads of this description may be enumerated, viz. three from London to Bath and Bristol; two from Oxford to Bath and Bristol; three through Salisbury into Dorset, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall; one from Portsmouth and Southampton to Bath; and one from Salisbury, through Devizes, to Oxford. To the credit of the county, it may be added, that the system of making and keeping their numerous turnpike roads in repair, is no where better known and practised than in Wiltshire. The private roads, like those of all other parts of the kingdom, are good or bad, in proportion to the plenty, or scarcity of materials. Till lately, those in the north part of the county, were bad to a proverb; however, the introduction of turnpike roads, not only stimulated the inhabitants to make good their approaches to them, but also enabled them to fetch materials for the purpose.

FUEL.

Another great cause of the distress of the poor in many parts of the county, and particularly on the Downs, is the scarcity of fuel. Coals are advanced very considerably, and let the price of carriage be ever so much reduced by good roads, or even by canals, coals must still be dear in many parts of the county. Wood is the natural, and should be the depending fuel of a great part of Wiltshire. It is a melancholy fact, that without any particular acts of oppression on the part of the farmers, or of dissoluteness on the part of the poor, the labourers of many parts of this county, and of the south-east district in particular, may be truly said to be at this time in a wretched condition. The dearness of provisions, the scarcity of fuel, and above all the failure of spinning-work for the women and children, have put it almost out of the power of the village poor to live by their

industry, and have unfortunately broken that independent spirit, which in a very peculiar degree, formerly kept the Wiltshire labourers from the parish books. The farmers complain, and with reason, that the labourers do less work than formerly, when in fact, the labourers are not able to work as they did, when they lived better.

MARKETS.

Wiltshire is peculiarly fortunate in corn-markets; Warminster, Devizes, and Salisbury, have each a large proportion of dealers from the adjacent counties. Of these, and *indeed of all the corn markets*, Warminster ranks the highest. The universal custom of selling at a pitched market in the morning, and of receiving all the money the same day (generally before three o'clock), brings farmers frequently hither from a great distance. It is calculated that the quantity of corn and grain sold at Warminster market, amounts to 2000 quarters per week.

Bath and Bristol receive large supplies, especially of malting barley, from Warminster and Devizes.

Salisbury, as a cattle market, is one of the best and greatest out of London. Southampton and Portsmouth, and almost the whole of Hampshire, are supplied from this town; which is so situated as to take, not only the beasts intended for its own market, but large droves of cattle destined for London, which in a quick time are sold at Salisbury. The market-days are at Warminster on Saturdays, Devizes on Thursdays, Salisbury on Tuesdays, and a cattle-market *on every* other Tuesday, called the fortnight's market. There are other towns in this county, which have pretty good markets, viz. Swindon for cattle, Marlborough for corn, cheese, &c. &c. As to the dairy productions, these are most commonly sent off to the factors in London, Bath, and Bristol. Butter, of a superior quality, and excellent cream, are sent into Salisbury from the adjacent water meadows of Britford, &c.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Weights.—Butter usually sold by the pound which was formerly 18 oz., now generally weighs 16 oz. in this county.

Cheese is usually sold by the cwt. 112 lb. Fat cattle, particularly pigs, are usually sold by the score of 20lb.

Measures.—A bushel of corn was till a few years since, nine gallons and nearly a quart; but has since been generally reduced to the statute measure of eight gallons.

Wheat, beans, pease, and vetches, are usually sold by the sack of four bushels. Barley and oats are generally sold by the quarter of eight bushels.

HORSES.

The horses used for agriculture in Wiltshire have long been considered improper for the work assigned them. In some few instances, improvements have been made by introducing Suffolk stallions, thereby producing a smaller compact animal, and with a quicker step both in the field and on the road. Unfortunately the pride of stock has existed too long among the Wiltshire farmers.

COWS.

The universal rage, for many years past, has been for the long-horned, or, as they are called, the 'north-country' cows. The reasons given for the general introduction of this sort are, the nearness of their situation to the north country breeders, where they can get any quantity they want, at any time, cheaper than they can rear them in a country where land is in general too good, and rented too dear for that purpose; and, especially as, in consequence of the great demand for the Bath and London markets, calves will pay better to be sold for veal, than to be kept for stock.

The reasons given by the dairy farmers, for continuing this kind of stock, are that they can make

more cheese from each cow; and that these cows will yield more, when thrown off to be fatted, than any other sort.

Many attempts have been made to supplant the long-horned cows, by introducing the Devonshire kind into this district. The comparative merits of the two species are very warmly contested.

Whatever may be the real comparative merits of the two kinds of cows for the dairy, there is not a doubt but the Devonshire kind are the most proper for fattening; and as to the oxen bred from the two kinds, it would be injustice to the Devonshire oxen, even to make a comparison between them.

SWINE.

Pigs are looked upon to be a necessary appendage to every dairy farm; a great number are bred with the whey and offal of the dairy, and many fatted. Barley-meal, mixed with the whey, is the general fattening food. Pease are not so much used as formerly.

The kind of pig is generally a mixture of the long-eared white with the black African, or Negro pig, which cross has been found to be a very great improvement.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

This county is in the Province of Canterbury and Diocese of Salisbury, is comprehended in the Western circuit, and divided into twenty-nine hundreds, viz.

Alderbury.	Damerham, North & South.
Amesbury.	Downton.
Bradford.	Dumworth.
Branch and Dole.	Elstubb and Everley.
Calne.	Frustfield.
Cawdon and Catsworth.	Heytesbury.
Chalk.	Higworth Cricklade and
Chippenham.	Kingsbridge. [Staple.

Kinwardstone.	Selkley.
Mahnsbury.	Swanborough.
Mere.	Underditch.
Melksbam.	Warminster.
Pottern and Cannings.	Westbury.
Ramsbury.	Woerwelsdown.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF WILTS.

Journey from Bath to Hungerford, through Chippenham, Calne, and Marlborough.—Forty-three miles.

At three miles and a half from Bath we enter the County of Wilts at New Bridge, and at five miles reach the very pleasing Village of Box, situated in a most beautiful country, and containing several handsome houses, built of the white free-stone got in the parish. Four miles from hence, about a mile on the right of our road, is CORSHAM HOUSE, the seat of P. Methuen, Esq.

In the last century it was one of the seats of Sir Edward Hungerford. It has been enlarged and ornamented by the late proprietor, in a very superior style of elegance and grandeur, chiefly under the direction of H. Repton, Esq. whose taste is so universally known. An apartment has been added, 70 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 24 feet high, for the reception of a collection of pictures, esteemed the finest of any in the West of England, consisting of no less than three hundred and fifty-six pieces, the greater number of which are the chef d'œuvres of the most celebrated artists. Respectable strangers have permission to view the house and pictures, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Park and gardens afford a variety of picturesque and beautiful prospects, and the place altogether is one of the most agreeable in the county.

The village of CORSHAM or COSHAM has been considered as one of the most pleasant in the whole county. The air here is so particularly clear and

salubrious that the inhabitants in general live to a very advanced age. This, indeed, appears from the inscriptions on the grave-stones in the church-yard, many being from 80 to 90, and several upwards of 100.

The town consists principally of one long street, and the houses are all built of stone. At the entrance from Laycock, another small village, to the south-east of Corsham, is a large building, founded and endowed as an alms-house, by Dame Margaret Hungerford, in 1668, for six poor women.

The Church is a fine structure. The vicar possesses very extraordinary privileges, having episcopal jurisdiction within the parish. There is a small market here on Wednesday, and two annual fairs. Sir Richard Blackmore, the poet and physician, was a native of this place.

At LAYCOCK, the village above-mentioned, there was formerly a Nunnery, founded in the reign of Henry II. by Ela, Countess of Salisbury. It remained until the general dissolution of religious houses, when its annual revenues amounted to 205*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* Some part of the ancient structure is still remaining, converted into a dwelling-house.

At four miles from Corsham and thirteen from Bath, we enter

CHIPPENHAM,

A pleasant and thriving borough town, situated in a fertile vale, on the River Avon, over which it has a handsome bridge of sixteen arches. It is at present very populous, and the houses are in general well built. The great road passes through this town to Bath and Bristol; and, being nearer than by way of Devizes, is much frequented by the nobility and gentry travelling through Wiltshire. Chippenham, according to the returns under the population act, contains 668 houses, and 3410 inhabitants. Of the ancient history of Chippenham little is to be found on record, further than that

"in the days of Alfred it was one of the finest and strongest towns in the kingdom," the taking of which by the Danes, about the year 880, was a principal cause of the memorable retreat of that great and good King, who, for a time, found it necessary to take up his residence in the humble cot of a neat-herd. We are indeed told, that the ancient Saxon monarchs had a palace or castle here; and that Alfred the Great bequeathed it by will to his younger daughter Alswitha, or Ethelswitha, who had married Baldwin, Earl of Flanders; that in the reign of Richard II. it belonged to the Hungerford family; that it afterwards reverted to the Crown, and was given by Richard III. to the first Duke of Norfolk; and that in the reign of Henry VIII. it was restored to the heirs of its former possessors. At what time it fell to decay does not appear; nor is the least vestige of the building now to be seen. Camden, in his "Britannia," supposes the church here, which is a venerable gothic structure, to have been founded by some of the Hungerfords; though he does not appear to have sufficient authority for supporting this opinion; certain it is that the arms of that family remain to this day on the walls of a portion thereof, anciently called Hungerford's Chapel; and which we have reason to believe was erected by Walter Lord Hungerford, in the reign of Henry VI.; he having at that time obtained a royal grant for founding a chantry within the parish church of this place, to pray for the souls of his sons, as also for those of Henry V. and Catherine his wife, &c. &c. From a similarity in the architecture, and the same arms being now visible in the tower and other parts of the church, both within and without, we may naturally conclude that the whole building then underwent a general repair; that some considerable additions were made to what was then remaining; and, that the tower now standing was wholly erected at the

time above-mentioned. The most ancient monument here is a tomb to the memory of Andrew Baynton, Esq. bearing date Anno Domini 1370. —The inscription is as follows:

ARMIGER HOC TUMULO JACET HIC GENEROSUS
OPACO

ANDREAS BAYNTON QUI NOMINATUS ERAT
QUEM GENUIT MILES BENE NOTIS UBIQUE
EDWARDUS

HUJUS ERAT HERES NUNC REQUIESCIT HUMO.
A. DNI. 1370.

“ In this dark tomb lies the worthy 'Squire named Andrew Baynton; also the well-known knight, his son and heir, lies buried here.”

The corporation, which consists of a bailiff and twelve burgesses, obtained their original charter in the 1st year of the reign of Queen Mary; before that period Chippenham was a borough by prescription. The right of election is vested in the corporation, viz. the bailiff and twelve burgesses, and about 120 freemen, occupiers of burgage houses, who together send two representatives to parliament. The bailiff is the returning officer.

Chippenham has been considerably benefited by charitable donations for the endowment of almshouses and relief of the aged poor. There is also a good charity-school for the education of poor boys, in reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic. The bailiff and burgesses for the time being hold a considerable estate in trust for the benefit of the freemen, after defraying the expences of keeping in repair a pitched causeway, upwards of three miles in extent, viz. from Chippenham Clift to Wick Hill. At the first mentioned place is the following couplet inscribed on a large upright stone:

“ Hither extendeth Maud Heath's Gift,
For where I stand is Chippenham Clift,
Erected in 1698 and given in 1474.”

At Wick Hill is a stone with another couplet ;

“ From this Wick Hill begins the praise
Of Maud Heath’s Gift to these highways.”

with the same addition commemorating the date of the gift.

Upon a stone pillar at Calloways, near the further end of the causeway from Chippenham, is the following inscription, giving some particulars of the charity :

“ To the Memory of the worthy Maud Heath, of Langley Burrell, spinster, who in the year of grace, 1474, for the good of travellers, did in charity bestow in land and houses about eight pounds a year for ever, to be laid out on the highway, and causey leading from Wick Hill to Chippenham Clift.

This pillar was set up by the feoffees in 1698.

Injure me not.”

Chippenham has a good weekly market on Thursday.

The principal trade carried on here is the manufacture of superfine woollen cloth, which during the late war was in so flourishing a state that the inferior classes of people employed in its various departments, found a difficulty in procuring dwelling houses for themselves and their families.

At a village called STANLEY, near Chippenham, was formerly a monastery of Cistercian Monks, founded and endowed by the Empress Matilda, about the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. at which time its revenues amounted to 170*l.* per annum ; but no remains of the building are now to be seen.

About two miles and a half from Chippenham is DERRY HILL, over which the old road to Calne used to pass ; this steep ascent was found extremely inconvenient and dangerous ; a new road has therefore been cut between Studley and the foot of

Derry Hill, which in a great measure remedies the defect. The workmen employed in making this road, found several Roman coins and other antiquities.

About two miles from hence, on the left of our road, is Bow Wood, the seat of the Marquis of Lansdown, which is much admired for the natural beauty of its situation, and the taste that is displayed in the extensive park, gardens, pleasure-ground, &c. The park contains nine vallics, the whole surrounded with a belt of plantations. In the midst of the park, nearer the north-east side, is the mansion, a large and magnificent pile of building, situated on an eminence, rising from the lake, a most beautiful and extensive piece of water, divided into two branches, one retiring behind a swell of the lawn, the other lengthening itself to a considerable distance, through the surrounding woods.

The pleasure-grounds are very extensive, comprising an area of upwards of seventy acres; they are most beautifully laid out and distinguished from the generality of places of the same name, by the profusion of large indigenous and exotic trees with which they abound, and which thrive here in the most luxuriant manner. At the bottom of these grounds is a fine artificial cascade, where the surplus water of the lake falls thirty feet perpendicular over large fragments of rocks, brought to the spot, and piled one upon the other, by the ingenious person who designed the whole. Underneath the cascade there are subterraneous grottos formed by the same rocks.

The present lake was formed by raising a head across a valley, through which a small stream of water pursued its winding course.

About a mile west from the house, in the park, is a handsome mausoleum, erected to the memory of the Earl of Shelbourne, grandfather to the pre-

sent Marquis. It contains a marble tomb, with a flattering inscription.

Mr. Britton gives a very correct and pleasing detail of the beauties of this place, and sums up its general character in the following words: "The scenery at Bow Wood may be ranked under each of the three distinguishing classes into which the agreeable objects of nature have been divided: the sublime, the picturesque, and the beautiful.

"The latter may be seen in the lawn and the pleasure-grounds; the picturesque in the broad lake, and its artless, wild, and broken accompaniments; the sublime in the extensive prospects, the rich woods, and the massive rock, worn into furrows by the rush of the falling waters. Here the minutiae of landscape is never perceptible, it is absorbed in the striking grandeur of the surrounding scenery."

STUDLEY is a small village, remarkable for the warmth of its situation, and the goodness of its soil, which enables the inhabitants to cultivate great quantities of vegetables, for the surrounding markets, and produce them earlier than others. The soil is a light sandy loam, particularly favourable to the cultivation of peas, of which great quantities are raised for the Bath markets.

About a mile and a half from hence is the small borough town of

CALNE,

Situated nearly in the centre of the hundred of the same name, on the great western road from London to Bath. This is an ancient town, mentioned in Domesday Book to have been exempted from the payment of taxes, "so that it is not known how many hides are therein." It probably arose out of the ruins of a Roman colony, on the other side of the River Calne, near Studley, where Roman coins are frequently found.

Calne within the last 30 years has been greatly improved in the appearance of its houses and the cleanliness of its street. The Market-house and Town-hall is a commodious building, as is also the Free-school, founded and endowed under the will of John Bentley.

The church here is a large ancient structure. It consists of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles, with a square tower, ninety-three feet high, at the north-east end. Both the tower and the body of the edifice are ornamented with foliated pinnacles, rising from the abutments. The nave and aisles are divided by round massy columns with square decorated capitals, supporting semicircular, as well as pointed arches. The roof is of richly carved wood work; and on the north side of the church is an interior door-way, formed by a pointed arch with zigzag and nebule mouldings. On the same side are two monuments, one of which commemorates a member of the Ernle family, and the other one GUALTERUS NORBONNE, who died in 1659. In the church-yard is a large monument to the memory of *Investo Bowsell*, commonly known by the title of the King of the Gipsies. The town and parish of Calne contain 753 houses, and 3547 inhabitants. The staple manufactured produce here are broad cloths and kerseymeres. A branch of the Wiltshire and Berkshire canal comes into the town.

Calne is an ancient borough by prescription, sending two representatives to parliament, who are chosen by the burgesses. The first return was in the reign of Edward the first. The corporation consists of two guild stewards, who are chosen annually, and an unlimited number of burgesses; their number at present does not exceed sixteen. The guild stewards are the returning officers of the borough, which has for some years been com-

pletely under the influence of the Marquis of Lansdown.

The manor, prebend, and rectory of Calne, are held by the family of Lansdown, under leases for several lives, from the Dean, Chapter, and Treasurer of Sarum. The living is a vicarage.

The population of Calne has been, of late years, considerably increased; and at present contains 3547 inhabitants, and 730 houses, most of whom are employed in the manufacture of broad cloth, kerseymeres, serges, and various other articles of the clothing business. Great quantities of broad white woollen cloth, of a particular description, are made for the East India Company. The weekly market is on Tuesday.

The inhabitants are well supplied with water, which runs in a copious stream through the centre of the town, giving motion to several fulling and grist mills.

At the bottom of the principal street this stream becomes a navigable canal, being held up by locks, and flows onward until it joins a branch of the Avon, near Chippenham.

By means of this canal, coals are brought into the town, at a much cheaper rate than they could otherwise be obtained. This stream is supplied by two others, one rising in a very romantic spot, near the village of Calston, about three miles west of Calne; the other issues from Cherril, and both unite at the entrance into the town. The inhabitants of Calne and its vicinity, have resolved to establish a pitching market for corn, in that town. John Bentley, Esq. of Richmond, Surrey, by his will, dated Sept. 29th, 1660, gave certain lands called Fricketts, adjoining Lincoln's Inn, then worth about 500*l.* for the erection and maintenance of a free-school, for ever, in Calne. In 1737 the surviving trustees established the following regulations:

“ That the master shall teach thirty boys of the parish of Calne, to read, write, and cypher.

“ That he shall not receive any money, or gratuity, from the parents of the poor children, nor take more boys than the stated number.”

And certain exhibitions were established by the liberal donations of Sir Francis Bridgeman, *knt.* at Queen’s College, Oxford; for the benefit of boys born in the county of Wilts, and educated in the free-school at Calne.—“ The master to keep a regular grammar-school, and teach seven boys the Latin and Greek tongue, and otherwise qualify them for the university of Oxford.”

About two miles east of Calne, is Compton-house, the seat of John Walter Heneage, *Esq.* pleasantly situated on the brow of a hill, commanding an extensive prospect, and surrounded by a park.

About three miles south-west of Calne is WHET-HAM, an ancient and agreeable retired seat belonging to the family of William Money, *Esq.*

Near Cherril, about three miles from Calne, close to the London road, against a hill called Oldborough Castle, is an elegant representation of a white horse, in a trotting attitude, which may be seen at the distance of twenty or thirty miles; it has been formed by paring off the turf on the side of a chalk-hill, and is executed in very exact proportions. This interesting object was improved into its present state of perfection, by the ingenuity, and at the expence of Christopher Alsop, *Esq.* formerly an eminent surgeon at Calne, not more remarkable for his professional skill, than for his great mechanical genius and integrity of character.

Four miles south from Calne is EDINGTON, or HEDDINGTON, which appears to have been a Roman station, by the foundation of houses dug up for a mile together, and many coins, silver and copper, found there.

At eight miles from Calne we enter WEST KENNET, a small village, where there is a kind of walk, about a mile long, which was once enclosed with large stones; on one side the enclosure is broken down in many places, and the stones taken away; but the other side is almost entire. On the brow of a hill, near this walk, is a round trench, enclosing two circles of stones, one within another; the stones are about five feet in height, the diameter of the outer circle 120 feet, and of the inner 45 feet. At the distance of about 240 feet from this trench have been found great quantities of human bones, supposed to be those of the Saxons and Danes who were slain in the battle of Kennet, in 1006.

At a village called BADMINSTER, in this neighbourhood, are nine caves in a row, but of different dimensions; they are formed by two long stones placed on the sides of each end, and the tops covered with broad flat stones. Spurs, pieces of armour, and other ancient remains, have been found in these caves, from whence it may be supposed they were the sepulchres of some eminent warriors; but whether British, Romans, Saxons, or Danes, cannot be ascertained.

About a mile and a half from West Kennet, on the left of our road, is the village of ABURY, or ANBURY, where there are several large stones like those at Stonehenge; supposed by some to be the remains of an ancient temple of the Druids; but more probably the burial place of a British chief.

MARLBOROUGH,

Is about four miles from West Kennet, situated in the hundred of Selkly, on the northern bank of the River Kennet. It is supposed to derive its name from its situation at the foot of a hill of marl, or chalk, and to have been built on the site of a Roman town, called *Cunitio*.

In the latter end of the reign of Henry III. in the year 1267, a great council of the nation met at

this place, and passed a body of laws, which still bear the name of the Marlborough Statutes; they were framed on purpose to prevent too many barons assembling in one place; though it was pretended that they were only to prevent tumults.

Marlborough sends two representatives to parliament, and is an ancient borough by prescription; but has received several charters of incorporation, by the last of which the government of the town is vested in a mayor, two justices, twelve aldermen, twenty-four burgesses, a town-clerk, and other inferior officers.

There is a good Charity-school in this town, founded and endowed in 1712, for 44 poor children, who are clothed and educated.

On the site of the ancient castle, a handsome house was built by the Marquis of Hertford, which has been some time converted into a commodious inn, the most considerable, for size and accommodations, of any in the West of England. It still retains the name of "The Castle." There are some remains of the ancient fortification yet visible, on the outside of the garden wall, and many coins have been found in the grounds about the house. The great mount in the garden was originally raised as the foundation of a great keep of the castle; on the sides and to the top of it there are shrubs planted, and a walk, from whence there is an extensive and delightful prospect.

As the manufactures of Marlborough are inconsiderable, the town derives its chief support from its advantageous situation on the high western road, and the consequent extent and superiority of its weekly markets held on Saturday, and long celebrated for a large supply of grain, butcher's meat, and cheese of the best quality. At the fairs here on the 10th of July, and the 22d of November, there is a considerable show of cattle, pigs, and sheep. This town contains 456

houses, and 2597 inhabitants. The houses are chiefly disposed in one long street running from east to west. They are very irregularly built, some of stone; but the greater number of brick, or wood. The latter are very old, and are ornamented in front with curious carved work. Part of the street presents rather an unusual appearance, a piazza projecting before the shop-windows, which serves as a promenade for the inhabitants in bad weather. In its centre are the shambles, or meat market; and at its eastern extremity is a market house for cheese, butter, and corn. The higher story is occupied by a council-chamber, an assembly room, and a court room, in which the annual sessions are held, and likewise courts belonging to the town. The old church of St. Mary, near this building, displays several styles of architecture. The tower of stone, is its oldest division, and has a door-way under it adorned with chevron and zigzag mouldings.

St. Peter's church, at the western extremity of the street, is adorned by a lofty square tower, surmounted with battlements and pinnacles. The roof in the interior is supported by light pillars. Besides these churches, which are parochial, here are several places of worship appropriated to the dissenters. The other public institutions are a Charity-school, and a Prison. The former founded and endowed in 1712, is said to be one of the richest foundations of the kind that any county town can boast of, its regular revenues from landed property alone amounting to 600*l.* per ann. A handsome new school-house has been lately erected by the corporation. The prison, first occupied in 1787, is a large edifice, commodiously laid out, and has two open courts attached to it; one for the use of the male, and the other for the female prisoners.

In different parts of the Downs in the neighbour-

hood of Marlborough, are many barrows, or burial places, which are supposed to be Danish, or with more probability British. On the same downs are likewise several large heaps of stones, called the *Grey Wethers*, from the circumstance of their appearing, at a distance, very much like sheep lying down to rest. They are all very large, and shaped much like those at Stonehenge, from which it is probable they are fragments of an ancient temple belonging to the Druids.

A little to the east of Marlborough is a village called RAMSBURY, once famous for being the seat of a bishop, under the West Saxon Kings, who continued till the latter end of the reign of Edward the Confessor, when it was annexed to Sherborne, and now makes part of the diocese of Salisbury. The village has been remarkable for its beer, great quantities of which were sent to London. Here is a seat of Sir F. Burdett, bart.; near it is LITTLECOT, the seat of the Pophams. Many Roman antiquities have been found in this neighbourhood.

At two miles from Marlborough, we enter SAVERNAKE FOREST, the property of the Earl of Aylesbury, and the only one in this country belonging to a subject. It is about twelve miles in circumference, and plentifully stocked with wood and deer; of the latter there are generally two thousand kept at one time in the forest, and the adjoining Park of TOTTENHAM, the seat of the Earl of Aylesbury. The forest is very agreeably intersected by many walks and vistas cut through the several copses and woods; eight of these vistas meet like so many rays of a star, in the centre of the forest, through one of which is a view of Tottenham.

This is a stately edifice, erected on the same spot formerly occupied by an ancient palace, belonging to the Marquis of Hertford, afterwards Duke of

Somerset, so justly celebrated for his steady adherence to the royal cause during the whole course of the Civil War. This palace being destroyed by fire, the present structure was erected in its stead. It was built from the design, and under the direction, of the late Earl of Burlington. It has four towers, and four fronts, each of them finely ornamented, and adorned in a different manner from each other. There are also four wings, in which are the rooms of state, and a noble library, filled with a choice and judicious collection of books in most languages.

The beauty of the buildings are greatly augmented by the large canals and spacious well-planted walks, that surround it; among which that leading to the London road extends two miles in length.

In this neighbourhood are the remains of a large house, called WOLF HALL, formerly the seat of Sir John Seymour; but now converted into a farmhouse. Here, it is said, Henry VIII. celebrated his nuptials with the Lady Jane Seymour, and his wedding dinner was served up in a large barn, hung with curious tapestry, on the occasion. In confirmation of this they still shew several tenter hooks driven into the walls, having on them small pieces of tapestry. Between this place and Tottenham there is a walk, shaded with very old trees, still known by the name of King Henry's Walk.

A little to the south-west of Savernake Forest, is a famous Saxon monument, called WANSDYKE, which runs across the county from east to west. The name *Wansdyke* is a corruption of Woden's dyke, or ditch; so called from Woden, one of the deities of the Pagan Saxons. The most probable opinion concerning this fortification is, that it was thrown up by the first King of the West Saxons, to check the continual incursions of the Britons, who continued for many years to attempt the recovery

of their ancient liberty. It is a strong earthen rampart, with a broad ditch on the south, and may be traced from Bath in Somersetshire to Great Bedwin in this county.

Seven miles from Marlborough, at Froxfield, is a handsome and well-endowed Almshouse, founded by Sarah, duchess dowager of Somerset, relict of John, the last duke of the elder branch of the noble family of Seymours, descended from the great Duke of Somerset, protector of the king and kingdom during the minority of King Edward the Sixth. This lady bequeathed by her will above 2,000*l.* for the building and furniture of this alms-house, and devised several manors, messuages, and farms, for the maintenance of thirty poor widows, not having twenty pounds per annum to subsist upon; one half of which are clergymen's widows and the other laymen's, giving preference to those of the last description, who live on the manors so devised by her. She left in her will particular directions for the form, dimensions, and site, of the structure; and for the manner of electing, ruling, and providing for the widows; which her executors, especially Sir William Gregory, who took upon him the execution of the trust, punctually observed. The building is neat and strong, in the form of a quadrangle, having one front, and a court before it facing the road. It contained thirty rooms on the ground-floor, and as many chambers above, one of each sort being allowed to every widow, for her apartment, with a small portion of a garden in the north part of the building, enclosed with a brick-wall. In the midst of the quadrangle is built a handsome and convenient chapel, furnished with a communion table, pulpit, desk, pews, and books, for the use of the widows; wherein the chaplain, whose stipend is thirty pounds per annum, is to read prayers every day, and to preach on Sundays; and for his further encouragement is to be presented, on a vacancy, to

the rectory of Keymish in this county, which the Duchess appropriated to that use. Besides the yearly pension in money, she also ordered a cloth gown, with a certain quantity of wood, every winter, to be given to each of the widows; and when the estates which she had given to the said almshouse (many of which were demised upon leases for lives) should fall in, and produce a clear yearly income of more than four hundred pounds, she appointed additional lodgings, to be built for the reception of twenty more widows, who were to be placed upon the same establishment, elected, and provided for in the same manner as the thirty former; and then all the rents and profits of the said estates (the salary for the chaplain and a steward being first deducted) shall be distributed in equal shares and proportions among the fifty widows. The additional lodgings have been erected, according to the intent of the foundress, about twenty years ago.

About five miles north of Froxfield is AUBURN, situated on a branch of the river Kennet, near the borders of Berkshire. On the 12th of September 1760, it suffered a most dreadful conflagration, having seventy-two houses and effects to the amount of 20,000*l.* destroyed by fire. A public subscription was opened for the relief of the unfortunate sufferers, which extended through a considerable part of the kingdom, and produced a very large sum. It was formerly a trading town of some note, and had a good market on Tuesdays; but, owing to the fire and subsequent decay of its trade, the market has for some time been discontinued. The inhabitants have, however, till very lately carried on a considerable trade in the manufacture of fustians.

About three miles south from Froxfield is GREAT BEDWIN, a small ancient borough town (by prescription), once a city, and in the time of the Saxons the residence of the governors of the county, who

built a castle here, of which the ruins of some parts, and the ditch still remains. It has sent representatives to parliament ever since the first summons; they are chosen by the inhabitants in general. The town is governed by a portreeve, chosen annually at a court-leet of the manor, who has a right of appointing all the inferior officers.

The most remarkable thing in this town is its ancient Church, which is a spacious structure, in the form of a cross. It is built of flints, cemented together with mortar, which by length of time has become almost as compact as the stones themselves. There are many ancient monuments in this venerable fabric, among which is one of a Knight Templar, whose effigies are dressed in the costume of that order; the name of this personage is said to have been Adam de Scot, from a manor of that name in the parish. The tomb has an inscription, so defaced as not to be legible. There are also several monuments to the memory of the ancestors of the Dukes of Somerset, particularly one of Sir John Seymour, father of the Protector, and of Jane, third Queen of Henry VIII.

This town had formerly a weekly market on Tuesday, but this has long been discontinued.

The principal part of the town of Hungerford being in the county of Berkshire, a little to the left of the road, we shall defer our account of it for the present. That part of Hungerford through which our road passes, and which is in Wiltshire, is only four miles from Froxfield, and is properly called Charnam Street, the ancient name of the whole town having been *Ikenild Charnam Street*. This neighbourhood has been very much improved by the navigable communication made from the Avon at Bath to the Thames, by means of the Kennet and some new cut canals.

Journey from Hungerford, to Cranborne; through Salisbury.

We meet with nothing particularly attracting the traveller's notice, until we have passed twelve miles of our journey, and arrived at LUGGERSHALL, or LUDGERSHALL, about a mile and a half to the left of our road, and upon that from Devizes to Andover. This is a town of great antiquity, and anciently one of the places of residence of the West Saxon Kings. Jeffery Fitzpier, grand Justiciary of England, in the reign of King John, built a castle here, but not a single vestige of it is now to be seen.

In the reign of Edward IV. the manor of this town was settled by that Prince, in special tail upon his brother the Duke of Clarence, but since the statute of alienation of Henry VII. it has been in the hands of various proprietors.

The town is a borough by prescription, and has sent representatives to parliament ever since the original summons. The right of election is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The municipal government is vested in a bailiff, who is annually elected at the court-leet of the manor. The town is so inconsiderable a place that it has not any market, and only one annual fair.

To the west of Luggershall is SOUTHBURY or CHIDBURY HILL, on which are the remains of a Saxon or Danish camp. It is a large intrenchment, of nearly an oval form, encompassed with wide ditches, which appear to have been formerly very deep, but at present are almost filled up with earth. Near this camp are several barrows or sepulchral monuments, where some persons of note have been buried. It is probable that a battle was fought here, between the first inhabitants of the island and the Belgæ, when they attempted to settle in this county, and that some of the most distinguished among the slain were here interred.

Near Luggershall, at Estcourt, not far from a great causeway, supposed to have been a Roman vicinal way, was dug up in 1693 a large earthen vessel, with two lesser pots in it, one of them full of ashes or bones.

At EVERLEY, about three miles to the right of our road, the West Saxon King Ina had a residence.

Proceeding on our road, seven miles from Luggershall, we digress about three miles to the right, in order to visit Amesbury and Stonehenge.

AMESBURY

Is an ancient town, situated on the river Avon, and chiefly consists of two irregular streets, old, and indifferently built. The Church is built of stone and flint: in the chancel are eight tall, narrow, lancet-shaped windows, with three others of large proportions, adorned with mullions and tracery. Near the altar is a niche in the north wall with a bold canopy; the tower is raised on four lofty pointed arches, and the belfry is lighted by several small lancet windows. In the nave and south transept are some curious specimens of sculptured brackets; and beneath the eaves of the nave on the south side is a series of sculptured blocks. On the same side are some old windows, with semi-circular heads, now closed up. At the west end is the fragment of an ancient doorway. The font is square, the upper part is nearly plain, and the lowermost adorned with blank arches. It is a great thoroughfare to Warminster, Frome, Wells, &c. and has two good inns for the accommodation of travellers.

A Charity School was erected and endowed here in 1715, for fifteen boys and as many girls. The town suffered greatly by fire in the year 1753. It is said to be remarkable for a small fish, taken in the river, of a very delicate flavour, called a loach; and near the town is dug the best clay in the king-

dom for making tobacco-pipes. The weekly market is on Friday.

Near Amesbury is the fine seat of the Marquis of Douglas, first built from a design of Inigo Jones, and afterwards improved by that great architect the late Earl of Burlington. The predecessor of the last Duke of Queensbury (perhaps better known as the patron of the poet Gay), made great improvements in the gardens and grounds, having inclosed and planted a large steep hill, at the foot of which the Avon beautifully winds, as also through the greatest part of the gardens.

STONEHENGE.

The astonishing assemblage of stones which compose the monument of antiquity thus denominated, is situated on Salisbury Plain, in the lordship of Little Amesbury, nearly two miles from Amesbury, and seven miles north from Salisbury.

The various conjectures and hypotheses concerning the origin and use of this wonderful structure have fallen before the learned, laborious, and accurate investigation of this place by Dr. Stukely; from whose work upon that subject the following account has been extracted. He has proved, by a variety of arguments, that it was a British temple, in which the Druids officiated, and has conjectured, from a calculation of the variation of the magnetic compass, which he supposes was used in the disposition of this work, that it must have been erected about 420 years before Julius Cæsar invaded Britain. He says that it was their metropolitan temple in this island, and was called by them, Ambers, or Main Ambers, which signifies Anointed Stones, that is, consecrated, or sacred stones; that when the Druids were driven from hence by the Belgæ, who conquered this part of the country, they, well knowing its use, called it Choir Gaur, meaning the great church, which the monks latinized into Chorea Gigantum, the Giant's Dance.

Its present name was given it by the Saxons, who were entirely ignorant of its having been a place set apart for religious purposes, as is evident from their calling it Stonehenge, which means the hanging-stones, or stone-gallows.

The measure used in constructing this temple was the Hebrew, Phœnician, or Egyptian cubit, to which Dr. Stukely found every part of it strictly adjusted; it is equal to 20 inches four-fifths of our measure, which will be used instead of the cubit in this account of its dimensions, as they will by that means be more readily conceived.

The whole structure was composed of 140 stones, including those of the entrance, forming two circles and two ovals, respectively concentric; the whole is bounded by a circular ditch, originally 50 feet broad; the inside verge of which is 100 feet distant all around, from the outer extremity of the greater circle of stones; the circle is nearly 108 feet in diameter: so that the diameter of the area, wherein Stonehenge is situated, is about 408 feet. The vallum is placed inwards, and forms a circular terrace, through which was the entrance to the north-east by an avenue of more than 1700 feet in a strait line, bounded by two ditches parallel to each other, about 70 feet asunder.

The outer circle, when entire, consisted of 60 stones, thirty uprights, and thirty imposts; seventeen of the uprights remain standing, and six are lying on the ground, either whole or in pieces, and one leaning at the back of the temple, to the south-west, upon a stone of the inner circle; these 24 uprights, and eight imposts, are all that remain of the outer circle. The upright stones are from 18 to 20 feet high, from six to seven broad, and about three feet in thickness, and being placed at the distance of three feet and an half from each other, were joined at the top, by mortise and tenon, to the imposts, or stones laid across like architraves,

uniting the whole outer range in one continued circular line at top. The outsides of the imposts were rounded a little to favour the circle, but within they were strait, and originally formed a polygon of 30 sides.

A little more than eight feet from the inside of the exterior circle, is another of 40 smaller stones, which never had any imposts. The stated proportion of these stones appears to have been about half the size every way of the uprights, though that measure has not been precisely attended to in the execution of them. There are only 19 of these 40 stones remaining, of which only 11 are left standing.

Within this second circle stands that part of the structure called the Cell, Adytum, or Sanctum Sanctorum: it is composed of five compages of stones, having one impost covering them both: these are all remaining, but only three of them are perfect; the other two have lost their imposts, and an upright of each of these trilithons has fallen inwards, one of which, that at the upper end of the Temple, or Adytum, is broken in two, and lies upon the altar, and the other upright of the same trilithon leans upon a stone of the inner oval, and is sustained in that state by its fallen impost. The stones of which this part of the temple is formed, are in magnitude much beyond those of the outer circle. Each trilithon stands alone, that is, without being linked together in a continued corona, by the being carried quite round, as in the uprights and imposts of the outer circle. The breadth of each stone at the bottom is seven feet and an half, and between each there is the distance of a cubit, which makes each compage at bottom near 17 feet in breadth. The upright stones diminish a little every way towards their tops, deriving stability from their pyramidal form, and having their imposts by that means projecting considerably over

their upper extremities. These trilithons rise in height, from the lower end of each side next the entrance, to the upper end; that is, the two first, that on the right hand and that on the left, are exceeded in height by the two next in order, and that at the upper end, directly behind the altar, is higher than the two that are next to it: their particular dimensions are 13, 14, and 15 cubits, which is about equal to 22 feet 6 inches, 24 feet 4, and 26 feet. The imposts here are nearly of the same size, which is 10 cubits, or about 17 feet in length, which answers to the width of each trilithon at bottom. On the inside of the greater oval, at the distance of about three feet and an half, is another arrangement of 19 smaller stones, coinciding in form with the outer oval, each stone being of a pyramidal figure: these are two feet and a half in breadth, one foot and an half thick, and on a medium eight feet high, increasing in height like the trilithons, as they approach the upper end of the enclosure or adytum. Of these there are only six stones remaining upright, though the stumps and remnants of several others are apparent.

Near the upper extremity of this inside oval is the altar, which lies flat on the ground, or rather somewhat pressed into it; it measures about 16 feet in length, four in breadth, and 20 inches in thickness, or rather what Dr. Stukely calls a just cubit; though he says it was extremely difficult to come at its true length, on account of its being partly covered with the ruins of the trilithon, which had fallen upon it from the head of the adytum, and broken it into two or three pieces.

The smaller stones of the inside circle, and likewise those of the inside oval, are of a harder sort than those that compose the greater part of the work. The altar is of a coarse blue marble, like that sort found in Derbyshire, or what is generally laid upon tombs in church-yards. It is remarked

that the inside of most of these stones is smoother than their outside; it is supposed that they intentionally placed the best side towards the holiest part of the temple. The upright stones of this fabric are inserted in holes cut in solid chalk, having their interstices rammed with flints. It is to this manner in which they were fixed, that we, in great measure, owe the preservation of so many of them in their original situation to so late a period.

With respect to the nature of the stones, of which the remains of this antique building are formed, some have considered them to be a composition of what is now called artificial stone; but this conjecture is so wild and extravagant, that it only requires ocular demonstration to disprove it. Others (particularly Dr. Stukely) have imagined, with more reason, that the ancients were acquainted with the mechanical powers, and that these stones were brought from Anbury, near Marlborough.

It is beyond a doubt that the Druids were not ignorant of geometry; but as for the stones being brought from Anbury, we must differ in opinion with that learned gentleman, because upon the most critical examination of the nature and texture of the Anbury quarries, and comparing the stones with those of this temple, there is a very material difference, the former being extremely hard, and those of the latter much resembling Purbeck marble; nay, while we were on the spot, a learned gentleman scraped some part of one, when it appeared to be one of the same nature, and, as he observed, there was not the least doubt but the stones had been originally brought from that peninsula by machines constructed for that purpose, although the knowledge of that valuable art might have been lost long before the arrival of Julius Cæsar in this island.

The most probable conjecture as to the means

used to raise these extraordinary stones unto their present situation is that of the learned Mr. Rowland; who, in his *Mona Antiqua*, thus accounts for the phenomenon: "The powers of the lever," says he, "and of the inclined plane being some of the first things understood by mankind in the use of building, it may be well conceived that our first ancestors made use of them; and that in order to erect those prodigious monuments, we may imagine they chose where they found, or made where such were not fit to their hands, small aggeres or mounts of firm and solid earth for an inclined plane, flatted and levelled at top; up the sloping sides of which, with great wooden levers upon fixed fulciments, and with balances at the end of them, to receive into them proportional weights and counterpoises, and with hands enough to guide and manage the engines, they that way, by little and little, heaved and rolled up those stones they intended to erect on the top of the hillock, where laying them along, they dug holes in the earth at the end of every stone intended for column or supporter, the depth of which holes was equal to the length of the stones, and then, which was easily done, let slip the stones into these holes straight on end; which stones so sunk and were closed about with earth, and the tops of them appeared level with the top of the mount on which the other flat stones lay; it was only placing those incumbent flat stones upon the tops of the supporters, duly bound and fastened, and taking away the earth from between them, almost to the bottom of the supporters, there then appeared what we now called Stonehenge, Role-Riche, or Cromlech, and where there lay no incumbent stones or standing columns or pillars."

For some distance round this famous monument are great numbers of sepulchres, or, as they are called, barrows, being covered with earth, and

raised in a conical form. They extend to a considerable distance from the temple; but they are so placed as to be all in view of it. Such as have been opened were found to contain either human skeletons, or ashes of burnt bones, together with warlike instruments, and such other things as the deceased used when alive.

In one of them, opened in 1723, by Dr. Stukely, was an urn, containing ashes, some bones, and other matters, which had resisted the violence of the fire, and by the collar-bone, and one of the jaw-bones, which were still entire, it was judged that the person buried must have been about fourteen years old; and there being several female trinkets, the Doctor supposed it was a girl. There was also in the grave, the head of a javelin, which induced the same learned gentleman to conclude, that the female had been a heroine. The trinkets consisted of a great number of glass and amber beads, of different shapes, sizes, and colours, together with a sharp bodkin, round at one end, and pointed at the other.

In others of these sepulchres, the Doctor found human bones, together with those of horses, deer, dogs, and other animals, and in one was a brass sword, together with one of the instruments called a celt, supposed to have been used by the Druids in cutting off the misletoe from the oak.

Among other curiosities dug up in one of the barrows, was a curious piece of sculpture in alabaster, of an oval form, about two feet in length, and one in the broadest part of the diameter. In the middle is represented a woman, habited as a queen, with her globe, sceptre, crown, and mantle of state; in a compartment over her head, are three figures, supposed to represent the three persons of the Holy Trinity; and round the sides are angels intermixed with some of the apostles. The exquisite workmanship of the woman, who seems in-

tended for the Virgin Mary, the strong as well as tender expression of her features, and the elegance of the drapery, shew it to be the work of a very skilful artist. This curiosity was seen by the person who describes it, in a public-house at a small village called Shrawton, about six miles to the north-west of Stonehenge. But if these figures have any relation to the mysteries of the Christian religion, it is evident this work is much more modern than many of the antiquities found in Salisbury Plain, and probably of a much later date than the barrow in which it was found.

From these sepulchres being within sight of the temple, we may conclude that, like Christians of the present age, the ancient Britons thought it was most proper to bury their dead adjoining to those places where they worshipped the Supreme Being. Indeed all worship indicates a state of futurity, and they might reasonably imagine that no place was so proper for depositing the relics of their departed friends, as the spot dedicated to the service of that Being with whom they hoped to live for ever. The sentiment is altogether natural, no objection can be made to it, while the depositories of the dead are detached from populous towns or cities; but no man can excuse the present mode of crowding corrupt bodies into vaults under churches, adjoining to the most public streets, when the noxious effluvia may be attended with fatal consequences to the living.

From Stonehenge we pursue our journey over Salisbury Plain, which extends in length from Winchester to Salisbury, twenty-five miles; from thence to Dorchester, twenty-two miles; and thence to Weymouth, six miles; and in breadth about thirty-five miles. This is far from being the dreary waste in general imagined. It is on the contrary interspersed "with a multitude of villages; wherever there is a valley, intersected with a

stream of water, there we are almost sure of finding a number of inhabitants. Neither is the *Vast Waste* (as it is erroneously called), destitute of wood. The numerous dips and bourns are generally overspread with fine trees, many of which are so thickly clustered on the banks of meandering rivulets, and assume such a variety of graceful forms, that it is astonishing they should have escaped the observation of an essayist on picturesque beauty. (Alluding to Mr. Gilpin's description of Salisbury Plain.) The plain does not extend in *any* direction to the length of fifty miles. The busy hand of man is every where apparent in the cultivation of many thousand acres; and like the industrious bee he has built him a hive in every dell. There are besides not less than half a million of sheep constantly grazing on these downs."

SALISBURY,

Or New Sarum, is situated in a valley, near the conflux of three rivers, the Avon, the Nadder, and the Willey, which divide themselves into small streams, that are conducted through and water the streets. This circumstance tends very much to promote the health of the inhabitants, by occasioning a more rapid circulation of air, and by washing away the filth which might otherwise accumulate upon so level a situation.

The streets of Salisbury are in general wide and regular, being at right angles with each other. The Market-Place is a very large open square, and the whole appearance of the town is particularly agreeable.

The ancient *Sorbiodunum*, or Old Sarum, is about a mile north of Salisbury. It is to this place the present city owes its origin. The name is supposed to be derived from a British compound word signifying a dry situation, and the Saxons, who called this place *Searysbyrie*, seem to have a reference to the same circumstance, *Searan* in the

Saxon language signifying to dry. Leland supposes Sorbiodunum to have been a British post, prior to the arrival of the Romans, with whom it afterwards became a principal station, or *Castra Stativa*. Besides the evidence of the itineraries, and the several roads of that people which here concentrate, the great number of Roman coins found within the limits of its walls, sufficiently prove its occupation as a place of consequence by that people. According to the author of *Antiquitates Sarisburiensis*, some of the Roman Emperors actually resided at Old Sarum. Leland mentions this place as having been very ancient and exceeding strong. It covers the summit of a high steep hill, which originally rose equally on all sides to a point. The area was nearly 2000 feet in diameter, surrounded by a fosse or ditch of great depth, and two ramparts, some remains of which are still to be seen. On the inner rampart, which was much the highest, stood a wall nearly twelve feet thick, made of flint and chalk strongly cemented together, and cased with hewn stone, on the top of which was a parapet with battlements quite round. Of this wall there are some remains still to be seen, particularly on the north-west side. In the centre of the whole, rose the summit of the hill, on which stood a citadel or castle, surrounded with a deep intrenchment, and very high rampart. In the area under it stood the city, which was divided into equal parts, north and south, by a meridian line. Near the middle of each division was a gate, which were the two grand entrances; these were directly opposite to each other, and each had a tower and a mole of great strength before it. Besides these there were two other towers in every quarter, at equal distances quite round the city; and opposite to them, in a straight line with the castle, were built the principal streets, intersected in the middle by one

grand circular street. In the north-west angle stood the Cathedral and Episcopal Palace; the former, according to Bishop Godwin, was consecrated in an evil hour; for the very next day the steeple was set on fire by lightning. The foundations of these buildings are still to be traced, but the site of the whole city has been ploughed over. Leland adds to his account, that "without each of the gates of Old Sarum was a fair suburb, and in the east suburb a parish church of St. John, and thereon a chapel, yet standing. There had been houses in time of mind inhabited in the east suburb; but there is not one within or without the city. There was a parish church of the Holy Rood, in Old Saresbyrie, and another over the gate, whereof some tokens remain."

Mr. Wyndham, in 1772, found, close to the London road, east of his house, and St. Edmund's Church, and at a small distance from the site of Old Sarum, the upper part of a casque about six inches in diameter; the rim of which had two or three flat buttons of brass, which served as rivets for several chains or straps of the same metal, over the temples, pretty entire, and a scull in it; another like casque, an inch less; a sword blade, two inches broad, three feet long, with the cross bars of the handle; two long spear's heads, and many human bones.

About the time the West Saxon kingdom was established, King Kenric, or Cynric, resided here, and about the middle of the tenth century, in the reign of Edgar, a great council, or witenagemote, was summoned by that prince, when several laws were enacted for the better government of church and state. Soon afterwards (in the year 1003) it was plundered and burnt by Sweine, the Danish king, in revenge for the massacre committed by the English on his countrymen the preceding year. It was however rebuilt, and became so flourishing

that the bishop's see was removed thither from Sherborne, and the second of its bishops built a Cathedral. William the Conqueror summoned all his states of the kingdom hither to swear allegiance to him, and several of his successors often resided here.

In the year 1116, Henry I. ordered all the bishops, abbots, and barons, to meet here, from which circumstance it appears that the people of England were represented by delegates before the reign of Edward I. though not in the regular manner as at present.

The first prelude to the downfall of Old Sarum, was a quarrel that happened between King Stephen and Bishop Roger, the latter of whom espoused the cause of the Empress Maud, which enraged the king to such a degree that he seized the castle which belonged to the bishops, and placed a governor and garrison in it.

This was looked upon as a violation of the rights of the church, and occasioned frequent differences between the military and the monks and citizens, the issue of which was, that the bishop and canons determined to remove to some place where they might be less disturbed, having in vain applied to the king for redress of their grievances.

The complaints of the citizens might, and indeed ought to have been attended to; but those of the monks were of a very different nature. It was their practice to visit the nuns at Wilton, where they often remained till late; which being known to the soldiers, they concealed themselves near the gate of the abbey till their return, when they diverted themselves at the expence of the ecclesiastics. The difference between the soldiers and the monks is ludicrously noticed in a ballad written by Dr. Pope, chaplain to Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury in the reign of Charles II.; the composition began with the following stanzas:

Oh ! Salisbury people, give ear to my song,
And attention to my new ditty ;
For it is in praise of your River Avon,
Of your Bishop, your Church, and your City.
And your May'r and Aldermen, all on a row,
Who govern that watered mead ;
First listen awhile upon your tip-toe,
Then carry this home and read.
Old Sarum was built, on a dry barren hill,
A great many years ago,
'Twas a Roman Town, of strength and renown ;
As its stately ruins show.
Therein was a castle, for men and arms,
And a cloister for men of the gown,
There were friars, and monks, and liars, and punks,
Tho' not any whose names are come down.
The soldiers and churchmen did not long agree,
For the surly men with the hilt on,
Made sport at the gate with the monks that came late
From confessing the nuns at Wilton.
From the time that Stephen put a garrison into
the castle, Old Sarum began to decay.
The removal was first projected by Bishop
Herbert, in the reign of Richard II., but the king
dying before it could be effected, and the turbu-
lent reign of John ensuing, the plan could not be
carried into execution until the reign of Henry III.
when Bishop Richard Poore fixed upon the site of
the present cathedral, and translated the episcopal
see. The inhabitants of Old Sarum speedily fol-
lowed, being intimidated by the insolence of the
garrison, and at the same time suffering great in-
convenience through the want of water. By de-
grees Old Sarum was entirely deserted, and at pre-
sent there is but one building left within the pre-
cincts of the ancient city. However, it is still
called the borough of Old Sarum, and sends two
members to Parliament, who are chosen by the
proprietors of certain lands adjacent.

The cathedral, which is so justly famous for its beauty, will of course be the first object of the traveller's attention. The foundation of this noble structure was laid by Bishop Richard Poore, 4 cal. May, 1220, and though large contributions were raised from most parts of the kingdom for building it, yet they were not sufficient to defray the expence. The Bishop, therefore, issued an order to all the priests in his diocese, to remind dying persons of a charitable contribution to this fabric. This answered the end so effectually, that the whole was finished in the space of thirty-nine years, being consecrated on the 30th November, 1258, in the presence of King Henry III. and a great number of the principal nobility.

The cathedral is one of the most elegant and regular gothic structures in the kingdom. The outward structure has been thought by some rather too plain for this species of architecture; but the proportions are so excellent, and the whole so pleasing, that we rather think the simplicity alluded to, one of its most beautiful characteristics.

The body is supported by ten pointed arches on a side, resting on clusters of the lightest pillars. Each transept has three such arches, forming as many chapels. Between the choir and presbytery is a second transept on each side with two arches. The cross aisle is so beautiful, as to exceed every other in the kingdom. From the centre of the roof, which is 116 feet high, rises a beautiful spire of free stone, which is 410 feet from the ground, and esteemed the highest in the kingdom; being nearly 70 feet higher than the top of St. Paul's, and just double the height of the Monument.

The dimensions of the cathedral are as follow; viz. in length from east to west 478 feet; of which the choir is 220, the body and side aisles are 76, and the whole breadth of the cross aisle, 210 feet.

The singularity of there being in this cathedral, three hundred and sixty-five windows, &c. is explained in the following verses:

As many days as in one year there be,
So many windows in this church you see;
As many marble pillars here appear,
As there are hours throughout the fleeting year;
As many gates as moons one here does view,
Strange tale to tell! yet not more strange than true.

The tower has sixteen lights; four on each side, and its ornaments are judiciously adapted to the body of the structure.

The west front and buttresses all round, have been filled with statues. On the north side of the church, there is a strong-built tower, in which are contained the bells of the cathedral, except one in the spire, which is rung when the bishop comes to the choir. There was formerly a spire upon this tower, which has been removed some years.

The spire of the cathedral is placed at the intersection of the nave and the principal transept. It rests on a handsome tower, which, exhibiting a more elaborate style of gothic workmanship, has been supposed to be considerably posterior in its date to the body of the church. Mr. Britton gives the following extract from Dugdale's Baronetage, to enable us to determine the age of its erection.

"There is a patent of the first year of King Henry VI. 1423, which recites that the stone tower standing in the middle of Salisbury Cathedral is become ruinous, and empowers the dean and chapter to appropriate 50*l.* annually for repairs. This in those days was a considerable sum; and I think an inference may be fairly drawn that the repair was made, and the tower rebuilt with the addition of a spire. The higher and greater part of the present tower is evidently engrafted on a work of an older and simpler construction. I suppose

this new tower and spire to have been finished not later than the year 1429; for in that year Sir Walter Hungerford had licence from the King to appropriate the great tithes of Cricklade and the reversion of the manor of Cricklade, called Abingdon's Court, to the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral, *to maintain the tall spire-steeple of that fabric in repair.*"

The walls of the spire are about two feet in thickness at the base; and gradually decrease until at the top they are scarcely seven inches.

This beautiful ornament to the cathedral has at different times been damaged by lightning.

In 1668 the spire being struck by lightning, and perforated in several places, it was proposed by Dr. Burnet, the then Bishop of Salisbury, to take it down; but upon a survey being taken by Sir Christopher Wren, that gentleman disapproved of the motion, and directed that it should be strengthened with bands of iron plates, which have so effectually answered the design of the architect, that it is said to be much stronger now than when it was first erected.

This is perhaps the best piece of smith's work, as also the most excellent mechanism of any thing in Europe of its age. Seven other bandages hoop, as it were, the spire together, besides one round its basement at the eight doors opposite the parapet of the tower. Much has been said about the tower's being twenty-three inches from a perpendicular; but this perhaps took place by a settlement even before it was completed; certain it is that no change of its declination has ever been recorded. Mr. Wyatt states "that the south-west pier is sunk seven or eight inches, and the north-west half as much; this has occasioned the leaning of the tower and spire to the south-west." The two, however, are so admirably bound together by arches and counter-arches, inside and outside; the winding

stairs in each of the corner piers of the tower; and the tabernacles with four door-ways in the spire, all contribute to make it as durable as the nature of its materials will admit. The roof is estimated to contain 2641 tons of oak timber, and under it are six or seven cisterns of water in case of fire.

Another dreadful storm, however, on the 25th of June 1741, nearly devoted the whole building to destruction. During the storm, a flash of lightning, accompanied by a peculiar crackling noise, was observed by several of the inhabitants to strike against the tower, and to be dissipated. The next morning the sexton perceived the reflection of a fire light on the upper part of the building, and it was soon found that the flash of lightning noticed the preceding day had set the structure on fire. By the immediate exertions of some men who were then working in the cloisters, and the ready assistance of the neighbouring inhabitants, water was procured and brought to the spot, so that in about two hours the fire was completely extinguished.

It appeared that the lightning had struck into the solid part of a timber brace, that was opposite to a cavity in the stonework on the west side. The sparks that ascended set fire to the timber near the division termed the eight doors, while the falling ashes communicated to the floor that laid above the vaulting of the church.

Before we conclude our view of the outside of this magnificent structure, we have to notice the great improvements made by Bishop Barrington, during the time of his filling the see of Salisbury.

It was under this prelate's direction that the tombstones were removed from the church-yard, and the ditches which surrounded it filled up, converting what was before disagreeably irregular and offensive to the sight, to an elegant lawn, covered with verdure and shaded by venerable elms, that

spread their expanded branches over various parts of the area; so that the cathedral is now seen to the greatest advantage, detached from human habitations and incongruous buildings, nearly in the centre of the *Close*; the principal buildings in which appertain to some or other ecclesiastical establishment.

The Chapter-house is a large and handsome building, being an octagon, 150 feet in circumference; the roof supported by a single clustered pillar in the centre, apparently too weak to support such a prodigious weight: a circumstance that renders the construction of this building an object of great curiosity.

On the south side of the cathedral is a noble Cloister, 150 feet square, with thirty large arches at each side, and a pavement thirty feet broad; over it is the Library, which was begun by the pious and learned Bishop Jewell; but since much enlarged by succeeding prelates.

The principal entrance is at the west end, "where the inside of the fabric displays its beauty in a most striking manner: the lightness and elegance of the clustered columns, the symmetry and proportion of the parts, and the grandeur of the whole, filling the spectator with amazement.

"In surveying the interior of this cathedral there is nothing to offend the purest eye, but the washing of the roof: which, though now reduced to one simple (stone) colour over the choir, is, towards the west end, most injudiciously daubed. It is greatly to be lamented, that, during the late improvements, the funds did not admit of rectifying a defect, which is become the more glaring, from being contrasted with what has undergone so advantageous an alteration. In advancing to the part of the church just mentioned, we are induced to admire the beauty and chastity of its architecture more than at first; the lightness of the work, the

regularity of its several proportions, and above all, its harmony of style, excite a pleasing astonishment."

When the doors of the choir are first thrown open, and the curtain drawn aside, the effect is truly sublime, nor is it weakened as you approach. All the windows in the neighbourhood of the altar being richly stained, diffuse a sombrous and awful gloom, which finely harmonizes with the general style of the building, and the conception and tone of colouring in the principal window are very impressive. The subject is the Resurrection, painted on the glass, by Mr. Eginton, from a design by Sir Joshua Reynolds. It is twenty-three feet high, and is comprised in three compartments, though there is only one figure, a full length of our Saviour, surrounded by rays of glory, and a profusion of bright clouds, with the three crosses on Calvary at a distance. Another of the windows at the east end, contains a very fine design by Mortimer, representing the elevation of the brazen serpent, given to the cathedral, by the present Earl of Radnor, (whose arms are emblazoned in a compartment above), in 1781. It was painted on the glass by Mr. Pearson, and is 21 feet in height, and 17 feet 6 inches in width; consisting of three compartments, containing together 21 figures, all of which are finely executed. It is very much to be regretted, that so fine a representation should be placed at such a distance that it is impossible to discover half its beauties.

In this part of the building are seen the lofty and slender single-shafted pillars so much talked about; and which, perhaps, by exciting a sort of confused idea of danger, heighten the awful impression of the scene.

We are indebted to "Storer's Description of the Cathedrals," for the following observations upon this beautiful edifice.

“ Thanks to the liberality and taste of Bishop Barrington, and to the talents of the late Mr. Wyatt, all these defects were judiciously removed in 1789, the cathedral restored to its primitive simplicity and beauty, while all the monuments of ancient art were carefully preserved, and placed in parts of the building more consonant with the general harmony of the edifice. It is admitted by Bentham to be the only cathedral church which never had any intermixture of styles, and cited by Hawkins as the first instance of the pure and unmixed Gothic in England. The elegant buttresses which had been sacrilegiously cut away to gratify private vanity, are now all restored, and the exterior proportions of the building are so admirably adapted, the harmony of the parts so complete, that it would be as wise to attempt improving the figure of the human body, by adding or subtracting a limb, as to improve the external character of Salisbury Cathedral, by adding or subtracting a single part. Nor is its interior less admirably harmonious in itself than the exterior. The same unity of design and consonance of object, appear throughout. The few monuments which were necessarily removed, are placed in more proper situations, between the pillars of the nave or in the aisles of the transept; and all the ornaments in the Beauchamp and Hungerford Chapels have been judiciously appropriated to respectable purposes. The vulgar Grecian screens introduced by Sir Christopher Wren, have been removed; the Lady chapel thrown into the chancel, the altar carried to the east end of the building, and fitted up with some of the finely sculptured Gothic niches found in the chapels; the episcopal throne, prebendal stalls, and choir, are equal in elegance and delicacy of Gothic ornaments to any in the kingdom. The screen at the entrance of the choir, the organ loft, the slight elevation of the chancel, the slender yet

lofty columns, the mosaic painted windows, the distant prospect of the Saviour in the east window, diffusing light as rising from his tomb, and over it the upper eastern window, with the enchanting representation of the brazen serpent, all conspire to give grandeur and sublimity; to shed 'a dim religious light,' and dispose the mind to the exercise of the highest and noblest of our mental faculties, grateful adoration of the benign Author of our existence."

To preserve this fine building, the dean and chapter in 1808 set apart one-eighth of their fines for its repair; but this being found insufficient, a general chapter was held in 1813, where it was determined to contribute two and a half per cent on all fines for this purpose. The bishop and dean also agreed to make a similar allowance from all the fines of lands attached to their respective dignities, as well as their prebends. With these funds and the judicious care of its conservators there is little doubt of Salisbury Cathedral long remaining one of the most perfect buildings of the kind extant. The cloisters are in fine preservation. The highly curious chapter-house, which had particular stalls for the respective dignitaries, suffered much from the rebellious fanatics. It is octangular, supported by a slender central pillar. The floor is paved with glazed tiles called Norman, and that the sculpture above the arches was *graceful*, appears from three female heads on a capital in the south-west corner. This chapter-house is an octagon, 150 feet in circumference, and the single pillar in the centre being *apparently* too weak for its support, renders the construction of the building an object of greater curiosity.

The organ, elegantly constructed to correspond with the architecture of the cathedral, is placed over the entrance of the choir, and as seen from the altar produces a grand effect. This instrument,

which is a remarkably fine one, was a present from his Majesty. It was built by the late Mr. Samuel Green, of Isleworth.

There are several curious monuments in the cathedral, particularly those of the Seymours, Dukes of Somerset, and their families, together with Bishop Jewel, and many others of the prelates of Salisbury. That which formerly attracted the most notice was one to the memory of Lord Stourton; who, in the reign of Philip and Mary, murdered one of his tenants, and the crime being attended with many aggravating circumstances of cruelty, he was found guilty, during the recess of parliament, and received sentence to be hanged; which, as we are told, was executed with a silken halter, being all the favour he could obtain. His friends applied to the bishop of Salisbury for leave to bury him in this cathedral, which request the prelate refused to comply with, unless, as a mark of further infamy, they would suffer the halter in which he was hung to be placed over the monument. This condition was complied with; but after being there for some time, the friends of the deceased obtained permission to have it removed.

There is likewise in the church the figure of one Bennet, a mad enthusiast, who (as they tell us) attempted to imitate our Saviour in fasting forty days and nights, and so strongly was he infatuated that he stood out against all the pressing desires of nature, till at last he perished, suffering a just punishment for his presumptuous folly.

The antiquary, perhaps, will be much interested in the view of a small piece of sculpture, near the great west door, representing a boy, habited in clerical robes, with a mitre on his head, a crosier in his hand, and a monster, supposed to be a dragon, at his feet.

This is supposed to be the monument of a boy-bishop, so called from the custom of celebrating

St. Nicholas' festival, by children habited as priests, which obtained in this and other cathedrals, as we have already had occasion to mention. One of these children, the choristers of the cathedral, was annually elected bishop, and he performed many of the ceremonies which appertain to the real pontifical function. If he happened to die during the period of his dignity, which lasted only a month from St. Nicholas' day, his exequies were solemnized with a pomp corresponding with that observed at the interment of a real bishop.

The remains of the celebrated James Harris, Esq. father of the present Lord Malmsbury, and author of several learned works, are deposited in the great transept.

A splendid monument has been erected by Mr. Carline, sculptor, of Shrewsbury, in Salisbury cathedral, to the memory of Edward Poore, Esq. who died May 19th, 1780, and Rachel his wife, who died June 16th, 1771. He was a descendant from the bishop of the see, and founder of the cathedral. This monument is perhaps one of the most perfect specimens of florid Gothic in the kingdom, and exhibits the style adopted in the period of Edward the Fourth. It was designed by the Rev. Hugh Owen, of Shrewsbury, one of the prebendaries of Salisbury cathedral, and harmonizes admirably with the general appearance of the building.

The monuments in this church generally merit peculiar attention, especially some of the most modern, which are finely executed. Flaxman's figure of Benevolence, exhibiting the *Good Samaritan*, to commemorate W. B. Earle, is extremely interesting, though the hands and the want of drapery have been justly censured. The same artist's Gothic monument to W. Long, Esq. is much superior; and the canopy, screen, and the figures at each side are finely and correctly executed. But Ba-

con's monument of the author of "Hermes," challenges the liveliest admiration, not less for the exquisite delicacy and grace of the figure, than the classical conception and execution of the whole piece. The medallion is a fine profile of this admirable writer of the "Dialogues on Happiness," &c. The tablets recording the demise of the dignitaries, have in general little variety: yet the walls are spacious enough to exhibit memorials of them, provided none but the virtuous were so honoured. The names indeed of the sanguinary and bigotted bishops Erghum, and Waltham, who burnt the poor Wickliffites, are properly suffered to sink into oblivion; but those of Jewel, Abbot, Earle, Seth Ward, F. R. S. Burnet, Sherlock, Douglas, &c. are preserved.

The Bishop's Palace, situated in the north-east corner of the Close, is an irregular and not very handsome building externally: it however contains several good rooms, and is agreeably surrounded by extensive gardens. It was principally built by Bishop Beauchamp: but owes every thing that is pleasing about it to the taste and liberality of Bishop Barrington.

The see of Salisbury has experienced many changes; when first established at Sherborne, in Dorsetshire, in 705, by Ina, king of the West Saxons, it comprised the whole district now divided into the bishoprics of Salisbury, Bristol, Wells, and Exeter. Anciently the Bishops of Salisbury were precentors to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Edward IV. constituted them Chancellors of the order of the Garter; the latter distinction, with a few exceptions, they have enjoyed ever since the reign of that monarch.

The diocese at present contains all Wiltshire, except two parishes; all Berkshire, except one parish and a portion of another; and some part of Dor-

setshire. The income arising from it is valued in the king's books, at 1,367l. 11s. 8d. ; but computed to amount to as much as 3,500l. annually.

We have already mentioned that the ancient bishops of Salisbury possessed the castle and manor of Old Sarum. In the reign of Edward III. Robert Wyvil, bishop of this see, sued William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, by writ of right to recover the castle and manor of Old Sarum ; but the Earl, according to the notions of chivalry in that age, pleaded that he would defend his title by single combat, to which the Bishop agreed. Champions being procured by both parties, and the day of trial being fixed, the Bishop came into the field, riding on horseback, clothed in white to the mid-leg ; over his robe was a surcoat, and behind him rode a knight with his spear, and a page carrying his shield. The Earl's champion came into the field much in the same manner ; when, after a short stay, they both retired till the weapons they were to use in combat should be first examined. During this space letters were brought from the King, commanding both parties to desist, till such time as inquiry could be made whether he had not a right to the castle, prior to either of the disputants ; but it does not appear that any inquiry was ever made, as we find the Earl surrendered his whole right of the castle to the Bishop for the consideration of 2,500 marks.

There now belong to the cathedral a bishop, a dean, a precentor, a chancellor, three arch-deacons, a sub-dean, a sub-chanter, 45 prebendaries, six vicars or petty canons, six singing-men, eight choristers, an organist, and other officers.

Besides the cathedral there are three parish churches in Salisbury, the most ancient is that standing on the west side of the market-place, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, and originally built

as a chapel of ease to the cathedral. It is a large and respectable building, 130 feet within the walls, and 70 feet broad, consisting of a spacious body, two aisles, three chancels, and a vestry-room, with a quadrangular tower. On the south side of this church, are two figures standing in niches: one said to represent the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus, the arms of the cathedral; and the other St. Thomas à Becket. On the outer wall of the west end of this church is a curious wooden monument, rather in a mutilated state, representing in alto-relievo the story of Abraham offering up Isaac, Jacob's dream, his ladder, and sacrifice, and his bargain about the striped and ringed cattle, and in another compartment Jacob with two shepherds, one of them sitting and the other leaning upon a rock. This rude but multifarious piece of sculpture seems to have been the workmanship of a person who was determined it should become the monument to his memory after his decease; for underneath the entablature, upon another, is the following inscription:

“Here underneath lieth the body of Humphrey Beckham, who died the 2d day of February, Anno 1671, aged 88, his own work.”

This inscription has given rise to a proverbial joke in Salisbury, when a man prides himself on any particular performance, it is said, by way of banter, to be “Humphrey Beckham's *own work*.”

According to the *Antiquitates Sarisburiensis*, this person was a singular character, of considerable natural genius for sculpture; but living in times when this art in England was the least cultivated, and being oppressed by low circumstances and obscurity, he found no opportunity for improving his capacity. It was only a short time before his decease that he finished the piece above described.

St. Edmund's Church is a handsome gothic

structure, founded by Walter de la Wyle, bishop of Sarum, in the year 1268, situate in the north-east quarter of the city.

The seat of Henry Penruddocke Wyndham, Esq. is upon the site of a College of Secular Canons formerly annexed to St. Edmund's church.

In this church there was a curious painted window, which was the occasion of a suit carried on in the Star Chamber against Henry Sherfield, Esq. the recorder of the city, for damage done by him to the painted glass.

This window is thus described in the antiquities of St. Edmund's Church, 1719. "In this window were finely represented the six days work of the creation; in four different lights or partitions. In several parts of it was the figure of God the father, pourtrayed in blue and red vests, like a little old man, the head, feet, and hands naked; in one place fixing a pair of compasses on the sun and moon. In other parts were some blunders committed in point of chronology: the Godhead was feigned creating the sun and moon the third day, whereas it should be the fourth; and the trees and herbs on the fourth, instead of the fifth; and the creation of man (from whose side the woman rises), on the fifth, instead of the last; the rest of the seventh day was represented by God the father in a deep sleep."

Very near the site of St. Edmund's Church a bloody battle was fought between Kenric, King of the West Saxons, and the Britons, in 552, when the important fortress of Old Sarum was gained by the victorious Saxons. In 1771 a considerable quantity of human bones, a large iron sword, the heads of several pikes, the central pieces of shields, with their brass bandages fixed to them, and other remains, were discovered in a part of the College gardens. To commemorate this circumstance,

Mr. Wyndham erected an urn near the spot, with a Latin inscription.

St. Martin's Church is situated upon the highest ground in Salisbury, and is nearly on the outside of the town; it has nothing to recommend it in particular to the notice of the traveller. The time when it was built cannot be exactly ascertained.

The great bridge over the Willey, on the west side of the Close, was built by virtue of a privilege obtained by Bishop Poore of Henry III. when New Sarum was incorporated; that for the benefit of the said city they might change the ways and bridge that led to it, and do therein what they thought proper, provided it was without injury to any person. Accordingly his immediate successor, Bishop Bingham, in 1245, built this bridge, which by bringing the great western road this way, instead of its passing through Wilton, decided the fate of that place. In this part of the city, which is called Harnham (having been a village of that name before the building of New Sarum) there was the College de Vaux, founded by Bishop Giles de Bridport, in 1260, for the residence of several scholars, who had retired hither on account of some disturbances at Oxford; here they pursued their University studies, and having a testimonial of proficiency from their Chancellor, frequently went and took their degrees at Oxford. This they continued to do in Leland's time, who says "part remain in the College at Saresbyri, and have two chaplains to serve the church there, dedicated to St. Nicholas; the residue study at Oxford."

The hospital of St. Nicholas, close to Harnham bridge, for a master, eight poor women, and four poor men, was founded at the instance of Bishop Poore, by William Longspée, the sixth Earl of Salisbury, as an atonement for an insult offered by him to the bishop. It was endowed with lands

and cattle by Ela his countess, and escaped suppression at the Reformation through the art of the masters, who concealed their records from the commissioners. They obtained a new charter from James I. and the revenues now support six poor men and as many women, together with a chaplain and a master.

The Council House or Town Hall is a very handsome building, situated in the south-east corner of the market place, built of a very light coloured brick, with a portico, and other ornaments of stone, at the sole expence of the Earl of Radnor, recorder of the city. The foundation stone being laid, 16th September, 1788, and the building completed 23d September, 1795. It was furnished by one of the members of parliament for the city.

The whole building consists of one floor only, on which are the two courts, a council room, or grand jury room, apartments for the officers of the corporation, a waiting room for witnesses, and a vestibule.

The council room is seventy-five feet in length, and twenty-four feet in width and height, occupying one entire wing.

In this room there is a fine whole length of Queen Anne, painted by the celebrated Dahl. It was purchased by the city from the October Club, who, during the reign of that princess, met at the Bell Tavern in Westminster. There are also two very fine pictures, by Hopner; one of the Earl of Radnor, the other of William Hussey, M.P. for the city, who died in 1813, universally respected as an upright and independent member of parliament, and a truly kind and honourable man.

The grand jury room contains several good portraits; viz. James I. John Duke of Somerset, Bishop Seth Ward, Chief Justice Hyde, and Sir

Thomas White, considerable benefactors to the city.

The Poultry Cross is entitled to some notice, as a curious gothic structure, of an hexagonal form, with a ball and sun-dial at the top : it has a small area around it, within which is the Poultry Market, from whence the name of the Poultry Cross.

There is another bridge over the Avon into the parish of Fisherton Anger, near St. Thomas's Church. Fisherton was a village with a church, before New Sarum was built, and had a house of Black Friars. In this parish, near the bridge, is the County Gaol, and the Infirmary, which was finished in 1767. This excellent institution was first suggested by Lord Feversham, who bequeathed 500*l.* to the first establishment of the kind that should be attempted in the county ; upwards of 40,000*l.* have been since subscribed towards its support.

There are many other charitable foundations for the asylum of the aged and infirm, and the education of the infant poor, in this city, besides two grammar schools of considerable reputation.

The city of New Sarum was first incorporated by Henry III. The charter was confirmed, and its privileges extended, by one obtained from Queen Anne. The municipal government is vested in a mayor, recorder, deputy recorder, 24 aldermen, 30 common council-men, a town clerk, and three serjeants at mace. The mayor for the time being, his predecessor, ten of the aldermen, and the recorder, are justices of the peace. Their jurisdiction, however, does not extend into the Close. The magistrates of that district being the dean and canons of the cathedral.

Salisbury has sent representatives to Parliament ever since the 23d year of the reign of Edward I. the right of election being in the corporation.

The manor belongs to the bishop, who holds his courts leet and baron in the nisi-prisus court of the town-hall. According to the charter the mayor takes the oaths of office in this court. The bishop also has the appointment of the clerk of the peace and the city bailiff.

The principal manufactures of the town are cutlery and steel-goods, fine flannels, woollen serges, kerseymeres, figured woollens for waistcoats, &c.

Salisbury contains 8243 inhabitants, and 1533 houses.

SOCIETY AND MANNERS.

Here is a concert every Thursday fortnight during the winter months, and once in the month during the summer, at which all strangers are admitted gratis; it is well supported, and has been established above seventy years. An assembly every other Thursday during the winter. The theatre is neat and usually visited by a company of comedians every winter. The races are commonly held in the month of August, and continue three days; they are attended by a numerous and brilliant assemblage of company. In the evening of each day there is a concert or ball at the assembly room.

LITERATURE AND EMINENT MEN.

The memorable Joseph Addison, Esq. was a native of this county, being born at Milston, 1672. Christopher Anstey, Esq. author of the "New Bath Guide," was born near Chippenham, in 1724. Humphrey Ditton, a mathematician, was born at Salisbury, in 1675. James Harris, Esq. author of "Hermes," &c. was born at the same place, in 1709. Thomas Hobbs, the philosopher, born at Malmesbury, in 1588. Sir Christopher Wren, the architect, born at East Knoyle, in 1632, &c. &c.

The Newspapers printed in this county, are the "Salisbury Journal," and the "Salisbury Gazette."

Before we proceed on our journey towards Cranborne, we shall take some notice of CLARENDON PARK. About two miles east of Salisbury, upon the Southampton road, are the remains of the ancient royal seat, called CLARENDON. It stands in the midst of an extensive and beautiful park, admirably well adapted for breeding and keeping deer. According to Dr. Stukely, the palace was built by King John, and in the reign of Henry II. about the year 1164, a synod was held here, occasioned by the insolence of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, when the king and peers assembled, the bishops swearing to a declaration which Henry had drawn by way of recognition of the customs and prerogatives of the Kings of England, which Becket had flagrantly invaded. These articles were, from the place where they were sworn to, called the Constitutions of Clarendon. Henry III. called another council here, in the 10th year of his reign; but the barons and commons did not appear, either at some disgust they had taken at the king, on account of his minions Gaveston and the Spencers; or on account of a plague and famine, which, some authors say, raged at that time with great violence in this county. Besides the Palace there was another structure in the park, called the Queen's Manor or Lodge; there are considerable remains of both buildings.

CLARENDON HOUSE, the seat of Felton Harvey, Esq. is pleasantly situated at the distance of a mile from the ruins of the palace.

Clarendon was the occasional residence of several of our kings, from John to Edward III. inclusive, and Roger de Clarendon, an illegitimate son of Edward the Black Prince, was born here. It also gave the title of Earl to the famous Edward Hyde, who was born at Dinton, in this county, in the

year 1608, and whose two grand-daughters sat upon the English throne.

A little north from Clarendon is FARLEY, the native place of Sir Stephen Fox, knight, 1627, who having acquired a large fortune by his services to Charles II. founded a hospital here for six old men, and as many women; with a master to teach a free-school for 12 children, and officiate in the church, which was at the same time rebuilt, and made parochial. He died in the year 1716, and was buried in this church. His eldest son by his second wife was advanced to the title of Earl of Ilchester, by George II. Baron *Redlynch*, of *Redlynch* in this county, and his second son, by the same marriage, to that of Lord Holland, in 1763.

About three miles south-east of Salisbury, pleasantly situated, in a fertile valley, upon the banks of the river Avon, is LONGFORD CASTLE, the seat of the Earl of Radnor.

The original building was erected by Sir Thomas Gorges, and his lady the Marchioness Dowager of Northampton, in the year 1591. It was of a very singular form, with round towers at each corner. This shape of the building has, however, undergone so many alterations and modern additions, that at present it can hardly be discovered, except with respect to the towers, which remain nearly the same as when first erected. The Park and grounds surrounding the house are very judiciously planted and beautiful, although too level in surface to afford many instances of the higher degree of the picturesque or grand scenery.

The house contains several fine apartments, of considerable dimensions and elegant proportions; and a collection of paintings by the old masters, of very great value.

Among other curious articles to be seen at Longford Castle, is a *Steel Chair*, executed by

Thomas Mikins, in the year 1575, at the city of Augsburg. The compartments more than 130 in number, contain an almost infinite number of small figures in miniature wonderfully executed in open work. They are intended to represent the complete history of the Roman Empire, from the landing of Enæas to the time of the then Emperor Rodolphus. It was brought into this county by Gustavus Brander, Esq. who sold it to the present Lord Radnor.

On a hill above Longford Castle there were formerly the remains of a Roman camp.

The road from Salisbury towards Cranbourn passes through the hundred of Cawder and Cadsworth, over an open and agreeable country; but during the whole distance of nine miles before we reach the boundaries of the county, we meet with nothing requiring particular notice.

Cranbourn chase, however, comprehends an extensive tract of country lying partly in Wiltshire, and partly in Dorset. Several legal contests concerning its boundaries on the Wiltshire side have taken place. There are many walks in Cranbourn Chase which belong to Lord Rivers with much greater rights than Savernake forest, and situated in the county of Wilts. The rights of this chase extend even to the city of Salisbury. Cranbourn Chase has at present six lodges with walks appropriated to each, under the care of a ranger, who holds his office by deputation from Lord Rivers. Formerly there were two other walks, of which Fern Ditch in Wiltshire was one. This portion has lately been disfranchised by the present Earl of Pembroke, who has wisely converted the greater part of it into valuable farms. Proposals have likewise been made for the disfranchisement of its other divisions; but the result of these negotiations does not yet appear.

For the preservation of Vert and Venison there is still a *wood* or *chase court*, which was formerly convened several times during the year; but now only once. Delinquents are punished by fine or imprisonment; and there is still a room in the manor house at Cranbourn, in Dorsetshire, called the *Dungeon* or *Chase Prison*, which appears from ancient presentments to have been much in use. In the *fence month*, viz fifteen days before, and as many after Midsummer day, every waggon and pack horse passing over Harnham Bridge, is liable to pay tolls; the former 4d. and the latter 1d. on account of the disturbance they occasion to the deer when dropping their fawns. At this period a pair of horns are fixed on the bridge as a signal to travellers, and the duty is collected under a warrant from Lord Rivers.

On the east side of this hundred is that of Downton, which takes its name from Dunston or Downton, a small market town and borough by prescription, pleasantly situated in a valley, watered by the river Avon, which not only fertilizes the soil, but gives motion to several mills in the neighbourhood. There is a good free school at this place, founded by Gyles Eyre, Esq. where twelve boys are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The Church is a handsome structure, with a tower, which has been repaired and improved at the expence of the Earl of Radnor. The poor of Downton are chiefly employed in making lace. The municipal government is vested in a mayor, chosen at the court-leet of the lord of the manor. Members have been returned to parliament from hence ever since the first summons in the reign of Edward I. the right of election is in all the inhabitants paying scot and lot. Downton has two annual fairs, and a good weekly market on Friday.

On a high hill south of Hummington, or Odstock, in this neighbourhood, is a very great single camp, called *Clerbury*, with a beacon in it.

Journey from Salisbury to Wincanton; through Hindon and Mere.

Between Salisbury and Wilton are the villages of Bemerton, Quidhampton, and Foulstone, which constitute the rectory of Foulstone or Fuddlestone, St. Peter cum Bemerton.

The village of QUIDHAMPTON, in a manufacturing point of view, may be considered as a sort of suburb or colony to Wilton. The woollen manufactories around furnish employment not only to men and women but to children also, so early as between five and six years of age. The daily toil of these little infants (whom if ever they are to attain the vigour and healthful activity of maturity, ought to be stretching their playful limbs in noisy gambols over the green) is added to the labours of their parents, whose burthens will of course be considered as relieved by their earnings. Yet Quidhampton seems to have little to boast in point of comfort or accommodation. The cottages are in general ill-built, and of wretched appearance.

The view of Wilton Park, as we proceed upon the road, is a considerable embellishment to the scenery of this flat and otherwise uninteresting part of the county.

The present rector of Foulstone cum Bemerton is Mr. Archdeacon Coxe, a gentleman well known in the literary world for his general knowledge and extensive erudition, so amply displayed in the several valuable works with which he has favoured the public.

WILTON

Is about three miles from Salisbury, and though now a very considerable place, was originally the capital of the county, and still is the county town a corporation, and borough, and has a market.

According to Leland, it had once twelve or more parish churches.

The town is situated in a valley upon the conflux of the Rivers Nadder and Willey, the latter, as Camden observes, giving the name to the place. It was anciently called Elland dun, as appears from old records, which expressly mention that Weolkstane, Earl of Ellandun (i. e. Wilton) built a little monastery here, A. D. 773. After his death, A. D. 800, his relict Alburga, sister to King Egbert, changed it to a nunnery. King Alfred, after his victory over the Danes, built a new nunnery here, on the site of the old palace, into which he removed the nuns from the other, thus doubling their number.

Wilton was anciently one of the royal boroughs of the Saxon Princes. At this place Egbert, King of the West Saxons, fought a successful battle, in the year of our Lord 821, against Beorwulf the Mercian; but with so much slaughter on both sides, that the river ran with blood. Here likewise in 872, Alfred fought the Danes, and was at first victorious; but pressing too warmly after the enemy, they rallied, and remained masters of the field.

The Danes, however, having lost great numbers in this battle, and fearing the King would considerably recruit his army, petitioned for a truce, which Alfred readily granted, upon condition that they would depart the kingdom.

The nunnery was valued at above 600*l.* per annum at the dissolution.

In the year 1003 this place was pillaged and burnt, by the Danes under King Swayne or Suene, when he overran the western and southern counties, as we have before-mentioned.

After the conquest King Stephen placed a garrison here, to check the incursions of the empress Maud's soldiers from Salisbury; but Robert Earl

of Gloucester drove out the garrison, and burnt the town. It was, however, soon after rebuilt, and would probably have regained its former consequence, had not Wyvil, Bishop of Salisbury, procured a grant from Edward III. to turn the great western road through that city; the consequence of which was that Wilton gradually declined.

This town received its charter of incorporation from Henry VIII. by which it is under the government of a mayor, a recorder, five aldermen, three capital burgesses, eleven common-council, a town-clerk, and other proper officers.

This being the Shire town, the county courts of justice are sometimes held here, as are likewise the elections for county members. The precise spot, where the electors meet to choose their representatives, is marked by a large stone placed erect, in the Warren, a short distance south of the town. The market days were formerly Wednesday and Friday, every week; but the Friday market is now dropped, and that on Wednesday, very thinly attended. The fairs are held on the 4th of May and the 12th of September. On the latter day several thousand sheep are brought here from various parts of the county.

The principal buildings in Wilton, are the parish church and the town-hall. In the latter, which is an old structure, is a drawing of the Great Seal, affixed to the Charter of Wilton, commonly supposed to be that of William and Mary; or, according to Mr. Coxe, that of Henry VII., and his Queen. The Dissenters have several places of worship in this town.

Wilton has long been celebrated for its carpet manufactures, but the first patent for making carpets exclusively here was obtained about sixty years ago; this patent, however, was soon after evaded by some persons at Kidderminster in Wor-

cestershire, who, in defiance of the patentees, established a manufactory there upon the same principles.

It is said that the first carpet ever made in England was manufactured at Wilton, by one Anthony Duffosy, who was brought out of France into this country by Lord Pembroke, the grandfather of the late Earl.

The carpet manufacture, after being very much improved, if not brought to its greatest perfection, by English artists. has been entirely relinquished.

We now proceed to

WILTON HOUSE.

The erection of this was began by Sir William Herbert, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, on the site of the nunnery, which, with the lands belonging to it, had been granted to him upon its dissolution, by the munificence of King Henry VIII. This Sir William Herbert was advanced, to the title of Earl of Pembroke in the reign of Edward VI. A. D. 1551. He dying in 1569, his son Henry finished the mansion, and died 1630. The plan of the buildings was designed by Holbein and Inigo Jones. The elegant porch leading into the great hall was executed under the inspection of the former. The whole remains a superb monument of the skill of those celebrated artists.

The Park and grounds have of late years been much improved, and are very beautiful. In the garden are a number of cedars of Lebanon; some are said to be the largest in England, being nearly fifteen feet in circumference, and proportionally high.

The river Nadder flows through the grounds, and spreads its waters into a considerable lake, and afterwards unites with the Willey.

The south or garden front of the house, opposite to which are the cedars just mentioned, was de-

signed by Inigo Jones, and is justly esteemed one of his happiest performances. It is 194 feet long.

The fine statues, busts, paintings, &c. at this noble seat, which have been collected at different periods, comprising the whole collection of the Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarine, and the greatest part of the Earl of Arundel's, are so judiciously placed, that it may, with great propriety, be called a museum. They are so numerous that it would require a whole volume to describe them.

The most material of the late alterations at Wilton were made by J. Wyatt, Esq. R. A. The chief feature of these has been the formation of an enclosed or glazed cloister, round a central court. This contains nearly the whole collection of busts, basso relievos, &c. Another considerable novelty is a large court-yard on the north, surrounded by offices, a lodge, and a new side to the house. The approach is through a triumphal arch, which is surmounted by a bold equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius. Passing this, the visitor is conducted to a vestibule which leads to the cloister, or rather gallery, which surrounds an open court. This cloister, as well as the vestibule, are filled with ancient marbles, consisting of statues, busts, basso relievos, fragments and inscriptions, of various sizes, ages, and characters. Many of them are extremely curious and valuable, as productions of art or memorials of antiquity, and these, with the pictures, are so numerous, that our limits will not admit a mere catalogue of them.

The collections of head-pieces, coats of mail, and other armour, for both horse and men, are very curious. They shew those of King Henry VIII. Edward VI. and of an Earl of Pembroke, nicknamed *Black Jack*, which he wore when he besieged and took Bolougne, in France. There are 12 other complete suits of armour, of extraordinary

workmanship, and above an hundred for common horsemen.

The gardens are on the south side of the house, and are laid out with great taste and elegance. Part of the river is brought in a canal through one part of them; and over it is erected the Palladian bridge, which is esteemed one of the most beautiful structures of that kind in England. After crossing this bridge, you ascend an hill, from whence there is a complete view of Salisbury Cathedral, and an extensive prospect over the adjacent country. Beyond this hill is the great park, where there is a hare warren.

Upon a considerable eminence overlooking Wilton, and the fertile valley at the union of the Nadder and the Willey, is the noted place called KING-BARROW, supposed by Dr. Stukely to be the tomb of Carvilius, one of the four kings of Kent, who attacked Cæsar's sea camp, in order to create a diversion in favour of Cassibelan. This prince is supposed to have kept his royal residence at Carvillium, now Wilton.

At Dinton, a small village, through which our road passes, Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, was born, of whom we have already made mention.

At CHILMARK, there are some very extensive quarries of stone.

About a mile and a half before we reach Hindon, and eleven from Wilton, is FONTHILL ABBEY, the celebrated seat of W. Beckford, Esq. This lofty tower is of the conventual style of architecture, standing among the woody eminences of Fonthill.

The public curiosity had been much excited for several years, by the building of this structure, more especially as the extraordinary mansion of which this tower forms a stately feature, had never been open to public view. Imagination of course had been busy, but the conjectures of the most luxuriant fancy could scarcely conceive a scene

so noble, so princely, as is exhibited in the Abbey of Fonthill, upon a near inspection of its component parts.

This impression of grandeur is, if possible, increased in passing through the various apartments of the building, which are fitted up in an almost unparalleled style of splendour and magnificence.

Before giving a regular description of the edifice, we shall take some notice of the grounds, which are happily formed by nature, and improved by art, into such a variety of mazy and deceptive paths, that it is scarcely possible to retrace the way without a guide: the circumference of the enclosure measures about seven miles, defended by a stone wall and *cheveaux-de-frise*.

Fonthill Abbey is distant from Salisbury about eighteen miles, and may be approached through the village of Fonthill Bishop, or by Fonthill Gifford. Immediately on entering the gate, the road ascends through a dark wood of firs, remarkable for their lofty growth, to a path leading eastward of the mansion, up the hard walk, or Hinkley Hill. In grounds so varied, it was found absolutely necessary to give a particular appellation to some principal points, as without this expedient, it would have been difficult to direct any one to a particular spot. This path is skirted with laurel, and enclosed by matted underwood: at intervals, the Abbey Tower appears on the left, among the trees. After traversing the distance of about half a mile, the forest lawn presents itself; and, turning to the left, the nut lawn presents itself, so called on account of the variety and abundance of hazels: here are likewise to be seen American and exotic oaks in great perfection. Directly in front of this walk, at some distance, is the Beacon, a very lofty wooded height, which we shall have occasion to notice as we proceed. The way continued about a quarter of a mile, leads to the clerk's walk,

which, on the left, passes the western front of the Abbey. A narrow mossy alley on the right, closely shaded, conducts to a path bordered by the scarlet thorn, and extending more than a mile, presents, during spring and summer, a beautiful and fascinating display of flowers of spontaneous growth, of luxuriant shrubs and variegated hollies.

The parts above described, are on the north side of the Abbey. Inclining to the north-west, we enter another path, called the Nine miles-walk, being part of a journey of twenty-two miles, which may be made within the grounds, without retracing our steps; on each side are broad spaces covered with flowers, which appear to be cultivated with peculiar care. Enclosed by large forest trees, the way may be pursued in a winding course to the summit of the great avenue; having attained the eminence, as we turn to the east, the Abbey bursts upon the view in solemn and imposing majesty. This point is the north-western extremity of the grounds, whence a folding gate opens into the public road; crossing which, another gate leads to the terrace, a woody ridge, that extends about five miles from west to east. Continuing along the western boundary, the prospect ranges over a country extensive and delightfully diversified. Among the most prominent objects, are Alfred's Tower, and part of the grounds at Stourhead, the seat of Sir Richard Hoare, Bart. Ascending the new terrace southward, the ground upon the right is an abrupt steep, crowned with large trees of various species; on the left is a deep woody bottom, called Bitham Wood. Turning out of this path, at an acute angle to the left, and pursuing the walk through a narrow passage in the wood, we arrive at the Beacon, one of the loftiest points in the whole sweep of hills, for which this part of the country is remarkable. On

the summit of this hill is a plain, of about five or six acres, crowned with a magnificent tower of considerable extent; it is of triangular form, having a circular bastion at each of its angles, and being overgrown with shrubs and moss in a very picturesque manner. Declining towards the south-east, near the foot of the Beacon, a most interesting prospect is suddenly and agreeably presented. Over a long extent of ground, varied by gentle undulations, and studded with clumps of trees, displaying a rich assemblage of glowing and luxuriant tints, appears the Abbey, forming a grand mass of embattled towers, surrounded by the lofty octagon which composes the centre. This enchanting scenery is backed by an elevated woodland of a sombre aspect, which by contrast heightens the striking and brilliant effect of the edifice. Descending into the bottom, a fine pellucid lake reflects the surrounding beauties of the place; in some parts of unfathomable depth, and having the appearance of the crater of an ancient volcano, stretching and meandering, so as to give an idea of even much greater magnitude than it possesses. The lake is plentifully supplied with wild fowl, and the woodcock has frequently chosen this sequestered valley for her nest. As shooting is not permitted within the enclosure, every animal sports undisturbed; and conscious of security, the hares will feed at the horse's feet from the hands of the rider, and frequently associate in great numbers within a few paces of the windows. Passing through a sheltered walk, bordered on one side with the hardest produce of the English and Mediterranean heaths, the American plantation is seen, broken into picturesque forms by the margin of the water. This plantation is principally made the declivity of a large knoll, and exhibits every variety of the magnolia azalia, and rhododendron hitherto imported. Here is a

pleasing view of the Abbey. In a direction south-east, there is a romantic hollow made still more interesting by the works that are here erected for supplying the Abbey with water. A wheel about twenty-four feet in diameter, is put in motion by a stream conducted from the lake through a wooden trough, several smaller water-courses assisting in the operation; the water thus raised to a level in the hydraulic machine, is passed into pipes and conveyed under ground into the house—the whole contrivance being remarkably simple, and reflecting great credit on the inventor. Approaching from the picturesque dell to the southern side of the Abbey, we arrive at a small garden, surrounded by a light iron fence, which is called the Chinese Garden, particularly appropriated to the culture of the rarest flowers. A little to the eastward is the kitchen garden, containing eight or nine acres, screened on the northern side by a wood of lofty pines. From the garden we arrive nearly at the point from which we set out, and, taking a short winding walk between the trees, come directly upon the lawn in front of

THE ABBEY.

This building, which was designed by the late Mr. Wyatt, aided by the acknowledged taste of Mr. Beckford, consists of three grand leading features, conjoined by the galleries and the cloisters. In the centre is the great hall and principal tower; towards the north are two large square towers, which are balanced at the other extremity, or southern end, by a group of varied edifices, with embattled parapets.

The front of the hall presents a door, thirty-five feet high, adorned with crockets, and a highly wrought finial. On the top of the pediment is a niche, containing a statue of St. Anthony of Padua, surmounted by a cross-flory, the arms of William,

the first Lord Latimer, from whom Mr. Beckford is lineally descended. The great tower, which is two hundred and seventy feet in height, is seen rising between four pediments, whose projection form the two stories of apartments around the octagon. Directly under the tower, appears the western cloister, behind which is a square paved court, having in its centre a fountain that plays into a large marble basin. Between two octangular towers, south of the cloister, is an oriel of two stories attached to the brown parlour below, and yellow damask room above; the tower on the north side of the oriel contains various apartments; that on the south, is a staircase to this part of the building.

On the south side of the building, is a richly ornamented cloister of five pointed arches, their outer mouldings terminated by heads beautifully wrought; answering to each of the arches, are the parlour windows, their upper compartments filled with delicate tracery and painted glass.

From the square tower, toward the east, projects the south oriel, forming the extremity of the long gallery, which measures three hundred and thirty feet; the upper part of this window is of stained glass, representing the four Fathers of the Church; the lower part, like most of the windows throughout the building, is of the finest plate glass, of uncommon size; below the window, is a pointed door leading to the lobby of the parlour. On the eastern side of the abbey, is an oriel richly carved, containing shields with armorial bearings, and other devices; the window is ornamented with the figures of St. Columba, St. Etheldreda, Venerable Bede, and Roger Bacon, in stained glass, by Eginton. On this side are three square towers, which form the principal features.

Having taken a general view of this extensive mansion, we shall now describe its interior.

THE BROWN PARLOUR is a spacious apartment, being fifty-six feet in length; it receives its appellation from the dark coloured oak with which it is wainscotted. It is lighted by eight pointed windows, three of which compose the lower story of the western oriel, the other five range within the southern cloister, and command the prospect over the deep woody vale, intersected by the lake and by pleasant lawns, beyond which rises the forest that encloses Wardour Castle. The upper tracery of the windows is enriched with painted glass by Eginton, after the drawings of the late eminent artist R. Hamilton, R. A. representing a series of some of the most remarkable historical personages among Mr. Beckford's ancestors. The room is fitted up with splendid simplicity; two large pieces of tapestry adorn its northern side. Between them, over the chimney, is a whole-length portrait of Peter Beckford, Esq. Mr. Beckford's great grandfather. He was lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief in Jamaica, and was honoured with the presidency of the council, and most of the civil as well as military employments of that Island, where he greatly distinguished himself at the French invasion in 1693. His son, likewise named Peter, was esteemed the richest subject in Europe. He married Bathshua, daughter and co-heir of Julines Hering, Esq. and was the father of William Beckford, Esq. the late celebrated senator.

The windows of the parlour are hung with two suits of curtains; the inner one is of blue damask, bordered with the tressure of Scotland; the other suit is scarlet, which gives the light a rich and sumptuous effect. The ceiling, tessellated by a neat moulding, has at each intersection four oak-leaves entwined. Attached to this parlour, is a small drawing-room with a groined roof, and an appropriate chimney-piece of Purbeck marble;

and opposite, on a table of curious construction, an antique vase of the purest alabaster. A closet in this little room contains specimens of an almost unequalled collection of ancient china, which is dispersed in the various apartments of the abbey. This room leads from the parlour through the cloister to the great hall. Opposite to this, a winding staircase conducts to the apartments above, and to a small gallery, at the entrance of which is a bust of Lord Nelson, placed there as a memorial of his visit to Fonthill, shortly after the glorious and decisive victory of the Nile. This head is esteemed a striking likeness of the much-lamented admiral.

We now proceed to the small gallery, which is above the yellow room; it contains costly tables, inlaid with oriental alabaster, and many invaluable pieces of china. Opposite the gallery, in the small octagon tower, is an apartment furnished with several curiosities worthy of attention: among them is a rich cabinet of ebony, inlaid with lapis-lazuli and other precious stones, designed by Bernini; over this hangs a remarkably curious old picture, representing the Burial of a Cardinal, by Van Eyck. There is likewise a fine Head by Holbein, and several Miniatures by Julio Clovio.

Adjoining this, is an apartment devoted to the use of such artists as are employed in directing the works carrying on at Fonthill; it contains a collection of the rarest books and prints, illustrative of ancient costume. This room has a window of four bays, looking into the fountain court, already mentioned; on each side of this window is a smaller one, with the armorial bearings of Mervin and Latimer, beautifully executed by Pierson. Here are two inestimable cabinets of the rarest old japan, enriched with bronzes by Vulliamy, and a portrait of the Duke d'Alençon, by Zuccherò, once the property of Charles the First. Connected

with this noble apartment, is a small lobby and dressing-room, ornamented with several pictures and drawings; the former has two views of the edifice that was burnt at Fonthill, in the year 1755, and a first design for the Abbey. The dressing-room is furnished with book-cases, and is hung round with drawings of the mansion lately taken down, and of the ancient manor-house, as it appeared about the year 1566, and in the time of the Mervins, Mr. Beckford's immediate ancestors.

A passage now leads to Mr. Beckford's bed-chamber: this room has two closets filled with curious specimens of carvings in ivory, and other rarities. On one side of the apartment is a large glazed cabinet, in which are most exquisite pieces of japan.

This being the south-eastern extremity of the building, we turn northward through the dressing-room to the upper library, or gallery, which is vaulted by an obtuse arch. At the north end of this gallery, is a square room, that looks through a tribune into the great octagon; there are two of these beautiful openings opposite each other; the room of the south tribune contains precious cabinets and valuable pictures. That on the north side will be described hereafter. All further progress this way being interrupted by the octagon, we return again through the lobby of the dressing-room, whence a staircase conducts to the eastern tower; here is a bed-chamber hung with the finest Brussels tapestry, an apartment over which terminates this part of the building. Descending, we enter a passage, in which stands six japan jars of uncommon size; rising again by a few steps, we come into the south-east tower, directly over Mr. Beckford's bed-chamber; here is a spacious apartment, and above it another, that forms the summit of this tower.

Having viewed all the principal apartments in

the south wing of the building, it is necessary to return to the room directly over the parlour: *The Yellow Damask Room*, is so called on account of its splendid yellow hangings. This apartment has five windows, three of them compose the upper part of the western oriel, the other two face the south. In this room are some of the finest cabinets of Japan and Buhl work in Europe: one of the latter formerly adorned the apartments of Fountainbleau, and is remarkable for a beautiful medallion of Lewis the Fourteenth. Near the collateral windows of the oriel, stand two immense china jars, not more valuable for their size than quality, presented to Mr. Beckford by the Prince of Brazil.

On the north side of the damask room, in the small octagon tower, is an apartment called the green cabinet room; it containing two frames, with alto relievos in ivory, of the time of Edward the First, each divided into two compartments; one frame represents the Virgin and Christ attended by Angels, and the Offerings of the Magi; the other contains the Salutation of Mary and Elizabeth, and Christ entering Jerusalem. Here are two tables of the rarest Florentine work, imitating shells, corals, and pearls, upon grounds of lapis-lazuli and oriental alabaster. Numerous articles of japan, with a great variety of delicate gold vases, some enameled, and others enriched with genis, are arranged in cases, somewhat in the style of those ancient cabinets which were called Ambries. The roof of this apartment is composed of fan work, with rich and elaborate tracery. From the yellow room, by a large folding door, we enter the *Japan room*, which contains Mr. Beckford's most choice and rare books. The roof is ornamented with circles filled with quatrefoil; upon the chimney-piece is a pair of massive gold candlesticks, of admirable workmanship. Passing

again through a lofty folding screen, composed of the most exquisite tracery, we come to the south end of *The Gallery*. This is a point peculiarly impressive—the oratory faintly appears through a long perspective of vaulted roofs, at the distance of three hundred and thirty feet. Near the south oriel, which forms this end of the gallery, stands a large amber cabinet, in which is seen all the various hues of that precious material; in some parts, the palest yellow is suddenly succeeded by the richest orange; in others, the tint increases to a garnet red, and again declines to a purity almost white; its sides are adorned with medallions likewise in amber. This rare curiosity, which is without a blemish, was once in possession of the Queen of Bohemia, daughter of James the First; her portrait, with that of her husband, appears in cameo, upon one of the drawers. The cabinet stands upon a table of ebony, with torsel feet, which formerly belonged to Cardinal Wolsey.

The east side of the gallery is lighted by an oriel and two windows; immediately under the oriel is placed a large japan chest, inlaid with curious devices in pearl and silver; the bordering is uncommonly rich. Under each of the pointed windows is a superb Gothic fire-place of marble, with tracery in the spandrils of the arches. The windows on the west side, have their upper compartments of stained glass: this gallery, and that of King Edward the Third, form the great library. The ceiling is of the richest fan-work, having for corbels, angels bearing emblazoned shields; the curtains strewed with the Hamilton cinquefoils, which Mr. Beckford quarters in right of his mother, who was an heiress of that illustrious family.

From the west side of the gallery, we enter the purple bed-room; it contains a painted frieze by Cagliari, representing the Woman taken in Adul-

tery; the Coronation of Henry the Fourth of France, by Philip de Champagne; Two Monks, are undoubtedly original by Quintin Matsys; a portrait of Catharine Cornuro, Queen of Cyprus, by Paul Veronese; and over the fire-place is a Head of Holbein, remarkably pure and perfect.

Proceeding in the gallery northward, we enter

The Octagon, and have a direct view of the northern tribune, which is over King Edward the Third's gallery. Between the piers of the octagon, which are composed of clustered columns, bearing eight lofty arches, are four pointed windows of beautifully stained glass, copied from those of the celebrated monastery of Batalca, in Portugal; the other four arches, that support the tower, are the openings of the galleries, the entrance to the great hall, and another arch built up: this latter is reserved for the entrance to a chapel intended to be erected on the eastern side of the Abbey.

The arches that have no place of egress, five in number, are hung with curtains, at least fifty feet high, which concealing the termination of the building, give an idea of continued space. The light emitted through the painted window of the octagon, presents a most enchanting play of colours, and the effect produced by the sombre hue of twilight, contrasted with the vivid appearance at different hours of the day, is indescribably pleasing and grand. Above the eight arches is an open gallery that communicates with the higher suit of apartments; from this springs a beautiful groining of fan-work, supporting a lantern, lighted by eight windows, richly painted; the whole is finished by a vaulted roof, the height of which is one hundred and thirty-two feet from the ground. Descending by a flight of twenty eight steps, eighteen feet in width; from the octagon we enter the great hall; this is a magnificent building, in the ancient baronial style; the roof, which is of oak,

is decorated with thirty-eight shields, emblazoned with Mr. Beckford's principal family quarterings.

On the left side are three windows of painted glass, the borders in imitation of a very ancient specimen in Canterbury Cathedral. On the right, directly opposite to the windows, are three lofty arches; the middle one has a deep recess, in which stands a statue of the late Mr. Beckford, habited in his official robes as mayor of London, with *Magna Charta* in his left hand.

The great western doors are of oak, and, as before observed, thirty-five feet high; the hinges alone, by which they are suspended weigh more than a ton: notwithstanding this, they are so exactly poised that the valves may be put in motion by the slightest effort. Over the door-way is a spacious music gallery; the access is by a small staircase curiously contrived within the thickness of the wall: its front is of gothic screen-work, with a cushion of crimson extending the whole breadth of the hall. Above this, in the pediment, is a small window of ancient stained glass, representing the Virgin and Child: ascending again from the hall, and crossing the octagon, is a large stair-case leading to the Lancaster apartments; the northern tribune room first presents itself. This is adorned with ebony and ivory cabinet vases of agate and of jade, some of them enriched with precious stones. The pictures in this apartment are portraits of St. Lewis Gonzaga, by Brozino; of Jeanne d'Arkel, of Antonio Moro; two pictures by West, from the Revelations; and figures of St. Jerome, St. Augustine, and St. Ambrose, by Hamilton; being the original designs for the stained glass in the gallery below: these are so placed as to be visible from the floor of the octagon.

The Lancaster gallery has a vaulted roof, and is decorated with a number of scarce prints. The carpeting is purple, powdered with flower-de-luce.

This leads to the dressing-room, which, through large folding doors opens into the state bed-chamber. The bed, which is of crimson damask, richly fringed, belonged to Mr. Beckford's great grandfather, when governor of Jamaica. This room is furnished in a splendid manner, and contains several valuable pictures; among them is a whole length portrait of the Regent Murray; on one side is a picture of St. Michael overcoming the dragon, and on the other a highly-finished portrait of St. Thomas-à-Becket. The ceiling is in the purest style of the sixteenth century; round the cornice is a richly carved and painted frieze, composed of portulisses and the united roses of York and Lancaster.

We now ascend the staircase that leads to the entrance of the great tower, and come to the suit of rooms that surrounds the octagon. There are two bed-rooms and two dressing-rooms; the dressing-room towards the west contains a curious picture by Mantegna, of Christ on the Mount, his three Disciples asleep; a very ancient performance, but in excellent preservation. Under this is a Pieta, by West. On the opposite side is the Madonna, surrounded by cherubs, presenting her with baskets of flowers; the figures by Van Balen, the landscape by Brueghel. Under this is the Vision of St. Anthony of Padua, receiving into his arms the infant Christ. The opposite dressing-room is hung with a curious grotesque device, worked with velvet, in crimson and green, upon a yellow ground of satin. In this room is a sumptuous cabinet, covered with a great variety of designs in silver, beautifully chased; and two pictures from the Revelations by West. The two bed-chambers are furnished in a stately baronial style. Above is another suit of handsome apartments, for attendants, each lighted by a catherine-wheel window.

A staircase now leads up to the leads of the cir-

cular tower, whence we enter the upper part of the great octagon; ascending by an inclined plane, in a circular direction, we reach the top of this lofty structure, which is two hundred and seventy-six feet in height. The view here is of vast extent, including many counties in its circumference: among the most conspicuous objects discernible without the aid of a glass, is Lord Arundel's terrace, adjoining Wardour Castle; this is a fine range of wood, above which rise the bold, green eminences communicating with Salisbury Plain. Westward appear the grounds at Stourhead, a distant prospect into Dorsetshire and Somersetshire, as far as Glastonbury, and the road to Shaftsbury winding between two hills. Among other picturesque objects is a line of buildings called Castle-Town, on account of the construction of the houses, which have at intervals a raised work like a tower: the general appearance resembles Ludlow Castle, in Shropshire. These houses were built by Mr. Beckford, for the convenience of the villagers he employs; they are situated without the grounds, at a short distance from the enclosure. Farther north is seen Bradley Knoll and Bidcomb Hill. It would be almost endless to enumerate the interesting objects that are visible from this elevation; some conception, however, may be formed, when it is known that the tower has its base upon an eminence considerably above the top of Salisbury spire; and there is no hill in the immediate neighbourhood of sufficient consequence to bound the commanding height of its summit.

Descending through the octagon on the north-east side of the abbey, we observe a tower containing several apartments. The upper one is a bed-chamber, lined with hangings of blue, strewn with white mullets, the original arms of the house of Douglas, and drawn together in the form of a

tent. Under this is a dressing and bed-room, in both of which the furniture, entirely composed of solid ebony and the rarest woods, is remarkable for the neatness and precision of the carved work. Re-entering the octagon, King Edward the Third's gallery presents itself. This contains seven lofty windows; opposite to them are portraits of Henry the Seventh, Edward the Fourth, John of Gaunt, the Constable Montmorency, Alphonso King of Naples, and John of Mountford, Duke of Brittany. Facing the centre window is a fire-place of alabaster, composed of an arch raised upon columns, with vine-leaf capitals. Above is a whole-length portrait of Edward the Third, copied by Mr. Matthew Wyatt, from a picture in the vestry of St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The windows of this gallery are hung with curtains of purple and scarlet. Upon a sculptured frieze are the achievements of seventy-eight Knights of the most noble Order of the Garter, all persons of eminence in English and Foreign history, and from whom Mr. Beckford is lineally descended. In continuation of this stately apartment is a vaulted gallery, wainscotted with oak and ribbed with deep mouldings, partly gilt and partly coloured; the floor is entirely covered with a Persian carpet, of the most extraordinary size and beautiful texture. This gallery receives a glimmering light through six perforated bronze doors, modelled after those of Henry the Fifth's chantry, in the Abbey of Westminster. These doors are hung with crimson curtains, which increasing the solemn gloom, aid the effect of the oratory which we are now approaching.

The Oratory, is part of an octagon; the roof, which is entirely gilt, terminates at each angle with delicate fan-work resting upon a slender column.

From the centre of the ceiling is suspended a

golden lamp, elaborately chased. The altar is adorned with a statue of St. Anthony, admirably executed in alabaster by Rossi.

On each side are lofty stands, upon which are placed candelabra of massive silver, richly gilt. The effect of this solemn recess must be seen to be conceived: nor can any description convey an idea of the awful sensation it inspires.

And here we end our inadequate description of this enchanting place, the erection of which has for many years furnished employment to so many artists and others.

We are unable to gratify the curiosity of our readers by any further account of these new erections, Mr. Beckford having determined to keep them secret from the public eye, though now entirely completed.

About four miles from Fonthill, is the hamlet of **TISBURY**, famous for its excellent quarries of stone, and for being the native place and residence of Josiah Lane, who acquired considerable reputation for his skill in forming artificial rock scenery. The grotto at Oatlands, and the cascade at Bow-wood were executed by him. In Tisbury church-yard there is a very large hollow yew tree, eight or ten yards in circumference, from the roots of which, near the centre, eight young stems have sprung up, twisting themselves together in a curious form, and at about the height of two yards shrink into the centre of the principal trunk of the parent tree, the hollow of which they almost entirely fill up.

About four miles south from Fonthill, in the hamlet of Timsbury, is **WARDOUR CASTLE**, the seat of the Earl of Arundel, which may be viewed every day after 12 o'clock.

This magnificent pile was begun in the year 1776, and was upwards of 10 years building. The ruins of the old castle, which are a mile distant from the

new house, still bears strong evidence of its ancient grandeur.

Approaching Wardour Castle from the road leading from Salisbury to Shaftsbury, it seems to emerge from the bosom of a thick grove, and at length displays itself fully to view, seated on a gentle eminence, and surrounded by a lawn and thick woods. The whole building is composed of free-stone, and consists of a centre, and two wings, which project from the body on the north side, in a curvilinear form. The entrance front looking towards the north is handsomely ornamented with pilasters, and half columns of the Corinthian order. This entrance opens into a spacious hall which conducts to the rotunda staircase, probably the finest specimen of modern architectural ornament in the kingdom. A double flight of steps leads to a peristyle of the Corinthian order, 144 feet in circumference; eight fluted columns with proper frieze and ornament support a lofty cupola, richly ornamented with trophies of music; the frieze is adorned with foliage, lions, wolves heads. &c., being part of the family arms; and the arch leading into the saloon is also enriched with the same, disposed in a fancy ornament, wherein the German honours hold a conspicuous place. The rooms on the principal floor of this mansion are twenty-six in number, and contain a variety of paintings by the first masters, as well as several curiosities, which are alike interesting to the artist and connoisseur.

In the west wing of the house is a chapel, which was built originally from the designs of Paine; but the sanctuary has been since added by Mr. Soane: the whole measures ninety-five feet in length, and forty in breadth and height, and has three galleries; one for the accommodation of Lord Arundel and his friends, and two for the reception of the choir and visitors. The eastern

end recedes into a semicircular form, and is lighted by several windows, ornamented with painted glass. The side walls are divided into compartments, which are filled with paintings. The altar is fixed upon a splendid sarcophagus of Verde Antique, dug up from some ruins near Rome, and is composed of different species of fine stones, chiefly marble, porphyry, and agate. Over it is a magnificent crucifix of silver, and two censers of solid gold, embossed with the same metal. The altar piece is a dead Christ, by Cades.

This house contains a great number of fine pictures, by all the best masters of the old schools; and various other curious productions of art.

In the music room is a portrait of the celebrated Blanch, Lady Arundel, daughter of the Earl of Worcester, copied from an original picture, by Angelica Kauffman. This picture is rendered particularly interesting by the historical circumstance connected with the history of this lady. It represents her extraordinary defence of the castle, in the absence of her husband, during the civil wars in the 17th century, holding it for nine days, with only 25 men, against a party of 1300 of the parliament forces, headed by Sir Edward Hungerford and Edmund Ludlow, and at length having expended her ammunition and provisions, surrendering the castle on honourable terms, which however were not observed by the captors, who wreaked their vengeance on the buildings and plantations. Shortly after this transaction Lord Arundel returned, and severely punished their breach of faith; he sprung a mine under the castle, and blew the greatest part of the traitors into the air. Lady Arundel, died October 28th, 1649, aged 66, about six years after the siege.

The grounds and plantations surrounding this mansion are very beautifully laid out, more particularly so towards the remains of the old castle.

The walk to the castle is serpentine, through woods, from whence, through many occasional openings, the distant country is viewed to great advantage:—the Somersetshire and Wiltshire hills, Glastonbury Tor, Stourhead, &c. the magnificent objects in the immediate neighbourhood, the new stupendous non-descript structure of Mr. Beckford, and the modern mansion of Wardour. But a nearer object presently engages the attention, the nodding ruin of the castle; its hoary walls strikingly contrasted by the gloomy mantle that envelopes their summits. A path through some neat parterres, ornamented with artificial rock-work, consisting of enormous blocks of honey-combed stone, conducts to the entrance, over which appear the following lines, surmounted by an ancient head, in a niche, and the arms of the family.

Gentis Arundeliæ Thomas Lanherniæ proles
 Junior, hoc meruirit, primo sedere loco,
 Ut sedit cecidit, sine crimine plectitur ille
 Insens, insontem, segunta probant
 Namque patris erant, Matheus filius emit,
 Empta auxit studio principis aucte manent,
 Comprecor aucta diu maneant augenda per ævum,
 Hæc dedit, eripuit restituitque Deus.

1578.

Thus translated into English :

“ Sprung from the Arundel Lanhernian race
 Thomas, a worthy branch, possessed this place ;
 Possessing fell ! him, guiltless, Heaven remov'd,
 And by his son's success him guiltless prov'd.
 By royal grace, restored to these domains,
 Matthew, his heir, increased them and retains :
 Through ages may they yet enlarged descend,
 And God the gift resum'd, receiv'd, defend.”

These lines allude to the fatal exit of Sir Thomas Arundel, who was implicated with Edward, Duke

of Somerset, in a charge of conspiring to murder John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and executed February 26, 1552. His estates, however, did not escheat; and his son Matthew (knighted by Queen Elizabeth, in 1574), mentioned in the lines above, succeeded to the honour and demesne of Wardour. Little remains of the castle but an octagonal court.

In this court is a very deep well, into which the plate and other valuables were thrown during the siege above-mentioned.

About six miles south of Wardour Castle, is Ashcombe, the seat of the Honourable James Everard Arundel, remarkable for its peculiarly singular situation: the following description of it is from the elegant pen of H. P. Wyndham, Esq. "The house is erected on a knoll, that rises, to a considerable elevation, from the deep centre of the mountainous hills with which it is closely environed on every part, in the circular form of a regular ascending amphitheatre. The lower half of their acclivities is almost uninterruptedly enriched with woods and coppices, while the upper part affords pasturage to innumerable flocks of sheep, and not unfrequently to herds of deer, that are enticed by the sweetness of the herbage to stray from the neighbouring walks of the Dorsetshire chase, and which are seen from the house, feeding even on the highest extremities of this lofty horizon. An inverted bason placed in the middle of a large china bowl, will give a clear idea of this romantic spot; on the circular top of the inner ba on stands the house, which though not meriting the attention of the traveller, is large, modern and convenient. From the platform round the house, the grounds abruptly ascend over a concavity of lawns, till they join the woods, which like a broad zone surround the luxuriant base of the hills. The diameter of the valley is about a quarter of a mile in breadth; a

line drawn across from the summit of one hill to the summit of the other may be in length a mile or more, and as the superficial descent of the hills on all sides is nearly half a mile, the degree of acclivity and the perpendicular height may with tolerable accuracy be defined; on which account I suppose the latter to be about 400 yards. The only visible approach to the house is from the north, where a safe and excellent road is formed down the steep and rapid declivity of a narrow ridge, from the top of the hill to the entrance of the stable courts. There is a quick slope on each side of the road, part of which is thinly wooded, and part divided into corn-fields. It is from hence apparent that the knoll on which the building stands is not perfectly complete, being connected with the northern summits of the hills by a steep projecting neck of land that precipitately terminates with the house."

Returning to our road we proceed to

HINDON,

A small borough town, consisting principally of one long street, built on the declivity of a gentle hill.

The greater part of this place was destroyed by fire in 1754. It is an ancient borough by prescription, governed by a bailiff and burgesses, and has sent two representatives to parliament ever since the seventh of Henry VI. the right of election being now vested in all the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The weekly market is on Thursday, and there are two fairs, one on the Monday before Whitsunday, the other on October the 29th. There was formerly a considerable manufactory here of fine twist; but at present the town has only a small share of the linen dowlas and bed-tick manufactories carried on at Mere and the neighbourhood. The works carried on at Fonthill have afforded employment for great numbers of the poor of all ages

during the last seven years. Hindon also derives considerable benefit from the custom of travellers passing on the great western road.

Hindon Church is a chapel of ease to EAST KNOYLE, a small village, distant three miles south-west, remarkable only for being the birth-place of Sir Christopher Wren, so much celebrated for his extensive knowledge in architecture. He was the son of a clergyman, and born in the year 1632.

About seven miles from Hindon is MERE, a small market town, which gives its name to the hundred in which it is situated, at the western extremity of the county, on the borders of Somersetshire.

There was formerly a castle here, of which not the smallest vestige now remains; but near the site is an ancient camp called Whiteshole Hill.

The houses at Mere are indifferently built and ill-arranged. In the centre stands a small cross, or market-house. The church here is the only building worthy of notice; it is a spacious edifice with a handsome square tower at the west end. This town is said to have been once of considerable importance, and has undoubtedly possessed a market from a very remote period, though the privilege seems occasionally to have lain dormant; it is now however exercised on Thursdays: and here are besides two annual fairs. The chief support of Mere now is its manufactory of English dowlas and bed-ticking, in which a number of women are employed. The town contains 170 houses, and 781 inhabitants.

About two miles and a half from Mere, seven miles from Longleat, and 25 from Bath, is STOUR-HEAD, the beautiful seat of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Baronet, anciently belonging to the Lords Stourton.

Henry Hoare, Esq. son of Sir Richard Hoare, lord mayor of London, purchased this estate, about the beginning of the last century. The house is

built of stone, and is nearly square; it is not very large; but possesses in its exterior a very respectable if not a grand appearance, and within, many magnificent as well as convenient apartments. The plan of the house was designed by Colin Campbell, the architect of Wanstead House, and author of "*Vitruvius Britannicus*." Some alterations were made by Mr. Hoare, and the building was completed in 1722. Since this two additional wings have been built, connected with the north and south sides, forming in the whole a facade of two hundred feet in length. These wings contain two rooms, forty-five feet by twenty-five; the one destined for a library, the other for a picture gallery.

There is a very fine and celebrated collection of paintings at Stourhead, which we have not space to describe.

The *Library* contains a valuable collection of books, particularly topographical works.

Stourton village adjoining Stourhead, is seated in a low dingle or dell. The fronts of most of the houses here are embellished with roses, jessamines, and various sorts of climates, which produce a very rural and agreeable effect.

WARMINSTER,

Is situated in the hundred of the same name, and is the most western town in the county.

It is a large and populous town, consisting chiefly of one long street, situated on the river Willy, which rises not far from it, and pursues a south-west course until it joins the Avon, at Salisbury, as before-mentioned. Camden calls this place *Verlucio*, an ancient town mentioned by Antoninus in his Itinerary, and derives its present name from *Ver*, part of the original appellation, and *minster*, the Saxon word for a monastery, which was formerly here.

This town, before the Conquest, possessed pecu-

liar privileges, for, according to Domesday-book, it was neither gelded nor rated by hides, that is, it was not taxed.

The principal part of the houses here are ranged in one very long street, stretching along the sides of the turnpike road. The parish Church stands at the western extremity of the town, a spacious and handsome edifice of stone, with a square tower at one end, and near the centre of the town is a neat Chapel of Ease.

Here are also two places of worship for Dissenters; a good Market-house; an Assembly-room; and a free Grammar-school, for the education of twenty poor boys. This Institution is endowed with a salary of thirty pounds per annum, and is in the gift of the Marquis of Bath. The town and parish of Warminster contains 1073 houses, and a population of 4866 persons. The great woollen trade here has suffered considerably by the late change in our continental relations.

The municipal government of the town is superintended by the neighbouring magistrates, assisted by constables annually chosen at the court-leet of the Marquis of Bath, who is lord of the manor.

The manor of Warminster, with many others in this county, formerly belonged to the family of Hungerford; but in the reign of Edward IV. they went by marriage to Lord Hastings, who suffered in the reign of Richard III. when that prince gave all his estates to the Duke of Norfolk.

Near Warminster is a lofty eminence, called *Clay Hill*, which may be seen for many miles round the country, and upon which there is a small double trenched circular camp. This place is supposed to be the *Æglea*, mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle, where Alfred encamped the night before he attacked the Danes at Eddington. On the Downs, north-east of the town, are two camps, about a mile and a half asunder: the northern double trenched,

called Battlesbury, probably Danish ; the southern square single trenched, called *Scratchbury*, with a barrow in it.

A very little more than four miles west from Warminster is LONGLÉAT, the seat of the Marquis of Bath, seventeen miles from Bath, on the road to Stourton. This is an ancient and magnificent structure, for size and number of apartments equal perhaps to any house in England. It is said to have been the first well-built house in the kingdom. It was begun in 1567 by Sir John Thynne, on the site of the dissolved priory purchased by him of Sir John Horsey, in the 32d of Henry VIII. and was twelve years building.

The house is 220 feet in front, and 120 in depth ; the height proportionable to these dimensions ; and the number of rooms is said to amount to 170. This noble mansion is supposed to contain the finest collection of original portraits of the most illustrious characters in the English history, who figured in the 16th and 17th centuries, of any in the kingdom ; and among others of more ancient date, is a remarkably interesting portrait of the celebrated Jane Shore, which is worthy of admiration, not so much for its execution or design, as for the beauty, humility, and resignation which are divinely worked in the countenance.

The park and grounds surrounding the house occupy a space twelve miles in circumference, exhibiting, “ a beautiful variety of country, rich natural scenery, heightened by the judicious exertions of art in noble well-disposed plantations. All is on the great scale, and every thing around recalls the remembrance of ancient English magnificence.”

A considerable branch of the river Frome runs through the valley very near the mansion, which very much increases the beauty of the scenery.

Among the trees which ornament the grounds,

are a profusion of venerable oaks, many of the largest Scotch spruce and silver firs in England, and these upwards of 120 feet high. In a grove near the house stands the stump of the ancient Weymouth pine, the parent of that species of trees in this kingdom; a hurricane destroyed the upper part a long time ago.

There was formerly a very fine aviary at this seat, containing a variety of rare birds: at present the most curious tenants of this place are a male and female kangaroo, brought from Botany Bay, and presented by their Majesties to the Dowager Marchioness of Bath. They are the only animals of the kind in England.

We shall make a digression from our road in order to visit the town of Heytesbury, about five miles south-east from Warminster.

The road from Warminster to Heytesbury presents many important and interesting objects to the notice of the antiquary; extensive and commanding fortifications, Roman villas, and other objects relative to the history and manners of the several classes of people who have inhabited this island.

The most conspicuous of the fortifications are, Knook Castle, Scratchbury, Battlebury, and Old Camps, before-mentioned. The first of these is in form of a parallelogram, containing within its mound an area of two acres. At a place called Pitmead, a little to the west of the Warminster road, to Sarum, between the villages of Norton and Bishopstrow, several curious Roman porticos and tessellated pavements have been discovered. In the latter end of the year 1786, part of a Roman pavement was accidentally discovered; a particular account of which was transmitted by a lady residing in the neighbourhood to the late Daines Barrington, which was afterwards given to the public by the Society of Antiquaries, accompanied by engravings.

The pavement was fifty-six feet long by ten feet wide, on this floor lay a mutilated statue of Diana; with a hare at her feet. The greater part of the pavement was taken up and conveyed to Longleat, by order of the late Marquis of Bath, where it now is.

In 1787, Mr. Cunningham, a gentleman of Heytesbury, devoted to antiquarian researches, discovered another tessellated pavement in Pitmead, nineteen feet three inches square. This was unfortunately much broken, so that great part of its original beauty was lost, but sufficient of it remained entire to prove the elegance of the design, and the execution. It consisted of a circular area, enclosed within a square frame, edged in the inside with a neat border, and another on the outside with a labyrinth fret, a bird and flowers seemed to have formed the ornaments of the area. There is very little doubt that these remains belonged to a Roman villa, and were part of a sudatory or sweating bath. Several porticos, of considerable dimensions and extensive foundations, were also discovered belonging to the same building.

Subsequent to these discoveries a vast number of small brass coins were dug up at Bishopstrow, half a mile from Pitmead, contained in three urns.

HEYTESBURY,

Is a small but agreeable town, pleasantly situated on the river Willey, in the hundred to which it gives its name. It consists principally of one street, and is a borough by prescription, sending two representatives to parliament, elected by the burgage-holders. The Church is a venerable structure, and is collegiate, having four prebendaries, belonging to Salisbury. The building is in form of a cross, the tower being in the centre.

The only public buildings here are an almshouse or hospital, and the church. The latter is a spacious and massive structure, in the shape of a

cross, with a square tower in the centre, and appears to have been made collegiate about the middle of the thirteenth century. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and has four prebends in the patronage of the Dean of Salisbury.

The employment of the inhabitants which is in the clothing manufactories, have tended very much of late years to the increase and improvement of the town.

Returning to Warminster, in order to pursue our original route, upon which we find nothing requiring notice until, at five miles from Warminster, we reach

WESTBURY,

An ancient borough town, supposed to derive its name from its situation on the western extremity of Salisbury Plain. Mr. Gough, in his Camden, says, "the name of Westbury is purely Saxon, derived probably from its being one of the considerable towns in the west, or from its situation west from a burgh, or Roman station, as they call Selwood Forest, in its neighbourhood, the western wood, by way of eminence."

The town consists chiefly of one long street, running nearly north and south, at the south extremity of which is the church.

The Town-hall is a handsome and convenient building. The market is on Friday, and there are three annual fairs. The Church is a venerable Gothic structure, with a tower in the middle, and a fine spacious window at one end.

The clothing manufactories are here carried to a considerable extent, and furnish employment for great numbers of poor people of the town and neighbourhood.

A little to the north of Westbury is an agreeable village, called EDDINGTON, or Heddington.

About two miles south-west of this village is an ancient fortification, called BRATTON CASTLE.

On the south-west side of the hill, upon which this fortification is situated, there is the figure of a white horse, in a walking attitude, cut out of the chalk forming the substratum of the soil, in the same manner as that at Cherril, near Calne, and there is very little doubt that this figure is also of as comparatively modern workmanship, and not as some learned antiquaries have supposed, a memorial to commemorate the victory gained by Alfred at Eddington. It is not, however, exactly known when this last was cut out.

At a small distance from Bratton Castle is a pleasant village called LEIGH, supposed to have been the place where Alfred encamped the evening before he engaged with the Danes, when that pious prince spent the whole night in devotion. In this village there is a field, wherein is a garden encompassed with a deep moat, and by the inhabitants called the palace of one of the Saxon kings.

About a mile and a half from the village of Eddington is *Stoke Park*, the seat of J. Smith, Esq. M. P.

This place was purchased by the late proprietor in the year 1780, who immediately pulled down the old mansion-house, and in 1786 began to erect a new one, upon a more elevated situation. This building was finished in about five years, and is remarkably elegant and convenient.

The pleasure grounds are very beautifully laid out and adorned with an infinite number of botanical plants of the finest description, intermixed with a variety of indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs.

The village of Stoke has been greatly improved by Mr. Stoke, by the erection of comfortable habitations for the peasant and his family, with a suffi-

ciency of garden ground, to supply them with vegetables.

About two miles from Eddington, upon the road to Trowbridge, is STEEPLE ASHTON, which Leland describes, as "a praty litle market-town, and hath praty buildings. It standyth much by clothiers. There is in it a very fair church, builded in the mind of men now living. The spired steeple of stone, is very faire and high, and of that it is called Steeple Ashton. Robert Long, clothier, builded the north isle; Walter Lucas, the south, of their proper costs. The Abbey of Ramsey, in Huntingdonshire, had both parsonage, impropriate, and the whole lordship. Sir Thomas Semar hath it now of the king, almost with the whole hundred of Horwell, alias Whoreweldown, with much fair woods."

The spire of this church, constructed of wood, covered with lead, suffered considerable damage in a storm, in 1670, being beat down by lightning.

Three miles from this village, and five from Westbury, is

TROWBRIDGE,

A large town, situate on the river Were; it was originally called Trolbridge, and a tithing or liberty in the parish, and a large common near it, have the name of Trowle. Leland however calls it *Thorough Bridge*, and says the church is about 400 years old: is still called the New Church.

There was formerly a castle here belonging to the ancient Dukes of Lancaster, which however was "clean down," in Leland's time, except two of its seven great towers; and now not the least remains of any part are to be seen. The Earls of Sarum were the ancient lords of this place, then the Dukes of Lancaster, and, in Leland's time, the Earl of Hertford. A court for the duchy of Lancaster is held here annually about Michaelmas.

Here is a good stone bridge over the river Were, but the houses are in general irregular and ill built, except such as have been lately erected.

The town is remarkable for its manufactory of superfine broad cloths and kerseymeres; ninety pieces of the former, and 490 pieces of the latter in a week.

The weekly market is on Saturday.

At HINTON, four miles east from Trowbridge, there was a convent of nuns, founded by Ella, Countess of Salisbury, in the reign of Henry III. The town of Trowbridge, and the immediate neighbourhood, derives considerable benefit from the canals, that have been begun and completed during the last twenty years, which open a very extensive communication by water all parts of the kingdom. The Kennet and Avon canal pass through Trowbridge, and at Bath join the Avon, which is navigable from thence through Bristol, to the Severn. Between Trowbridge and Bath, the Dorset and Somerset canal enters the Kennet and Avon, and thus connects the towns of Sturminster and Stalbridge, in Dorsetshire, and Wincanton, Bruton, and Frome, in Somersetshire. A few miles nearer Bath, the Somerset coal canals bring into the Kennet and Avon that valuable article, to be forwarded through a great extent of country, at a price it could not otherwise be attainable. The eastern course of the Kennet and Avon canal, is from Trowbridge to Devizes, from thence to Hungerford, and at Newbury, it enters the navigable Kennet river, which joins and falls into the Thames at Reading, thus opening to the western counties a direct communication, by water, with the metropolis of the kingdom.

The Berks and Wilts canal unite with the Kennet and Avon, a little to the west of Devizes, and pursuing a north and north-east course, communicates all the advantages we have before

mentioned, to the towns of Chippenham, Calne, Wotton Bassett, Swindon, and all the northern district of Wiltshire. This canal also joins the Thames, after passing through the north of Berkshire.

BRADFORD

Is situated on the banks of the Avon, near the middle of the western boundary of Wiltshire, on the borders of Somersetshire, within a cove formed by the surrounding small hills, which screen the town from the cold northern winds. The Avon here is generally called the lower Avon, and is considerably increased by the waters of the Were from Trowbridge.

The broad-cloths manufactured here, are remarkable for being composed of the finest mixtures, owing in a great measure to the water of the river on which the town stands, being peculiarly qualified for dying the best colours. The streets are narrow and irregular; but they contain many good houses.

Near the church is a Charity School, for the education of sixty-five children, which was opened in January 1712, and supported since by various donations and voluntary subscriptions. There is an Almshouse at the west end of the town, founded by John Hall, Esq. the last of his family, which had resided at Bradford ever since the reign of Edward I.

The Kennet and Avon canal passes by Bradford, and opens a communication by water, with the cities of Bath, Bristol, and London, and with the towns of Devizes, Trowbridge, Reading, Hungerford, &c. This canal on its way towards Bradford, follows the course of the Avon, which it crosses at different points on aqueduct bridges, one of which is in the neighbourhood of Bradford. Bradford, with Trowle, contains 571 houses, and 2989 inhabitants, chiefly employed on fine broad-cloths, a

few kerseymeres, and fancy pieces. Of the broad-cloths, above twelve thousand pieces are annually made here.

Journey from Devizes to Malmesbury, through Melksham and Chippenham.

DEVIZES is a large town, situated near the centre of the county, and containing a variety of the most evident marks of antiquity.

The town consists of two principal streets, running parallel to each other, and between them are several smaller ones. The modern houses are all built of brick, the more ancient are chiefly built of timber, but upon a very good plan, and among them are several very good inns for the accommodation of travellers. The town received its first charter of incorporation from the Empress Maud, which has been since confirmed by several of our monarchs. Edward III. greatly enlarged the privileges of the burgesses, placing them upon an equality with the citizens of Westminster, and the burgesses of Oxford; by a charter of Charles I. confirming all its ancient privileges, the government of the town was vested in a mayor, recorder, eleven aldermen, called masters, and thirty-six common-council men. The free burgesses, who are made such by the corporation to an unlimited number, are the electors of the representatives in parliament. Their number is at present not more than thirty. Members were sent from this town to all the parliaments of Edward I.; only four returns were made during the reign of Edward II.; since fourth of Edward III. the returns appear to be regular.

The Town-hall here is a handsome edifice of modern erection, having a semicircular front, with a rustic basement, and four Ionic pillars attached. The ground floor is used as a cheese-market, and above is a large room in which public meetings, balls and assemblies are held; also a

court room and its offices. The New Gaol is on the north-west of the town, close to the canal ; and this, from the general elevation of Devizes above the level, has no fewer than twenty locks here within the space of a mile. In the centre is the governor's house, with the infirmary directly over it. This portion of the structure is of a polygonal shape, as well as the cells immediately around it ; between which and the boundary wall is a considerable space laid out in gardens. The front of the house and the boundary wall are constructed of wrought stone. The *House of Industry*, consists of some very large premises originally erected by Mr. Anstie.

St. John's Church here is one of the most interesting parochial churches to the antiquary. It exhibits in its present form no fewer than four or five distinct styles of as many periods of its construction. It consists of a nave, two side aisles, a transept, a chancel, two private chantries or chapels. The masonry of the chancel tower and transept, probably built about the same time with the castle, and under the direction of Roger of Sarum, its celebrated founder is executed with a firmness and substantiality that also reflects the highest credit on the artizans employed ; and appears as solid as when at first erected. The chancel is arched over with bold ribs, springing from clustered capitals at the sides ; and in the northern wall is still displayed one of the original windows with a semi-circular arch, and ornamented with the zigzag moulding. The tower is curious with respect to form and ornament, the east and west arches which support it being semicircular ; and the north and south ones pointed. On the great arch connecting the tower with the nave is another striking ornament, that is a series of about forty-eight basso-relievo figures, representing a peculiar sort of

bottle running round the arch; and in the centre is a key-stone with an angel's head and thistles sculptured on it. The abacus, &c. of the capitals are figured with triangular indentations, like the impression of a trowel on clay or mortar. A circular turret connected with the north-western angle of the tower is embattled at the top and terminated by a small spire. The elevation of the tower on the eastern front is divided into two compartments, separated by a cable and plain string moulding. In the lower division are two semicircular headed windows with a central mullion and cinque, and quatrefoil dressings; and in the higher a series of five semi-circular arches, only two of which appear to have been intended as windows. The other portions of this church are of comparatively modern date, and almost every part of it has undergone a certain degree of alteration at different periods. It contains several marble monuments.

St. Mary's, the other church in Devizes, though constructed of good firm stone, is much inferior to St. John's just described. It has, however, much imagery about it, and contains some antique monuments.

To supply the place of an old pillar, or obelisk, concerning a judgment on a woman who forswore herself, a *Market Cross* has been lately erected here, at the sole expence of Lord Sidmouth, as a memorial of his attachment to the interests of the Borough of Devizes, which he has represented in several successive parliaments previous to his elevation to the peerage. It is built entirely of Bath stone, and was designed and executed under the inspection of Benjamin Wyatt, Esq. architect. This cross, in its low department forms a square, having a buttress at each angle surmounted by an enriched pinnacle. The spire is an octagon with ribs and crockets at the several angles, and is

tastefully decorated with architectural ornaments. The Chapel of Ease at this place is a neat structure, situated at the eastern extremity of the town, and is dedicated to St. James.

Devizes contains 696 houses, and 3,750 inhabitants.

The inhabitants of Devizes are much engaged in the woollen manufactures, which employ great numbers of the poor, and the trade of the town has been considerably increased since the completion of the canals we have before mentioned. The market is on Thursday, and it is abundantly supplied with all kinds of corn, wool, cheese, cattle, &c. from the surrounding country.

About two miles north-west of Devizes is a village called RUNDWAY.

About five miles south of Devizes, upon the road to Salisbury, is *Steeple*, or *East Lavington*, commonly called *Market Lavington*, from its great corn-market.

About half-way between Devizes and Melksham, is SEEND GREEN, a small but remarkably pleasant village; it is advantageously situated at the point where the great roads from Salisbury to Bath and Devizes into Somersetshire, through Trowbridge, meet.

MELKSHAM, about eight miles from Devizes, is a very large village, containing many well-built houses. This place has grown into considerable importance through the industry of its inhabitants, and its advantageous communication with the other manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood: great quantities of broad cloth, of superior quality, are manufactured here, and there is a large market for live stock every other Monday. There is a turnpike that branches off on the left from hence to Holt, three miles and a half from Bradford. At Holt there is a medicinal spring, and a seat of Mr. Methuen.

Between Melksham and Chippenham, two miles to the right of our road, is SPY PARK.

Returning to our road, we pass LAYCOCK ABBEY, situated near the extremity of a village of the same name.

Several parts of the original building of Laycock Abbey still remain entire; in that part which was the cloister, under a flat stone, are deposited the remains of the foundress.

The dormitory is also shewn; from the parapet of which, they tell you, a nun took a most desperate leap, in order to escape from her confinement.

Passing through Chippenham, which we have already described, we proceed on our journey to Malmsbury.

On the right of our road four miles from Chippenham, near Stanton St. Quintin, is DRAYCOT HOUSE.

MALMSBURY

Is an ancient town, pleasantly situated on the side of a hill, round which the Avon flows, nearly in the centre of the hundred to which it gives name, at the north-west extremity of the county, on the borders of Gloucestershire, about five miles from Tetbury.

Malmsbury has at different periods borne the following appellations: *Caer Bladon*, *Ingleborn*, *Maldulphi Urbs*, *Adhelmsberig*, *Medunum*, and *Medunesburgh*.

The remains of the ancient abbey church plainly shew that it must have been a very magnificent structure, equal to the most of our cathedrals. The abbey consisted of a very large spacious body, with a fine western front and tower, a large steeple, rising from the middle cross aisle and choir, &c.

Malmsbury is at present a large, well-built, populous town, carrying on a considerable trade in the manufactory of woollen cloth. It was incor-

porated early under the Saxon kings, but the present charter was granted by William III. by which it is governed by an alderman, 12 burgesses, and four assistants, all of whom are chosen annually.

Here is an Almshouse for four men and four women, founded by one Mr. Jenner, a goldsmith, of London. The houses here are chiefly disposed in three streets, the High-street, Oxford-street, and Silver-street. The first and last run parallel with each other, and are intersected by Oxford-street near the northern extremities. There is however a considerable street called Abbey Row, because it commences near the site of that building. Here is a weekly market on Saturday for butchers' meat, &c. which has long been declining; but a market for cattle, swine, &c. held on the last Tuesday of every month, called "The Great Market," is usually well attended. There are likewise three annual fairs for horses and black cattle, on the 28th of March, 28th of April, and 5th of June.

Mālmsbury, including the borough and parish, the Abbey parish, and that of Westport St. Mary, contains 322 houses, and 2009 inhabitants. St. Mary's of Westport is the only church now remaining. The Dissenters here are tolerably numerous, and have several places of worship. Among the most conspicuous remains of antiquity here, are those of the Abbey Church, the Abbey House, and the Market Cross.

Near the centre of this town, is the Market Cross, which appears to have been built in the reign of Henry VIII. Leland describes it as a right fair and costly piece of workmanship, made all of stone, and curiously vaulted, for poor market people to stand dry from the rain. There are eight great pillars, and eight open arches, and the work is octagonal; one large pillar in the centre

supports the turret. It is further ornamented with flying buttresses, and the turret is richly embellished with a small niche on each side, filled with figures in basso relievo; one of which represents the crucifixion. This cross was lately repaired by the liberality of the Earl of Suffolk and Lord Northwick.

About one mile north of Malmsbury, is CHARLTON PARK, the seat of the Earl of Suffolk, in the midst of a fine lawn, remarkably well-planted, so as to break all appearance of an insipid uniformity.

The mansion-house was built from the design of that celebrated architect Inigo Jones; it is a most beautiful square structure, with projecting bows in each front; since its first erection, this house, in the internal arrangement of its apartments, has undergone several judicious alterations. There are some very fine paintings in the collection here, entitled to the particular notice of the traveller of taste.

The great gallery in this house extends the whole length of the front; its ceiling is justly esteemed one of the finest specimens of the abilities of Inigo Jones, and a wonder of art.

About three miles to the west of Malmsbury, is a village called GREAT SHENSTONE. It is supposed to have been a Roman station, not only on account of its situation on the fosse-way, but from the great number of coins which have been found here, at different periods, many of which were silver.

A little to the north of Malmsbury, is another village, called NEWTON, or Long Newton. It is pleasantly situated, and commands an advantageous prospect of Malmsbury Church, as also of Charlton House and Park, where the Earls of Berkshire had a seat before the Civil Wars, when it was demolished by the soldiers. At the upper end of the village was the seat of Sir Giles Escourt, lord of the manor. It is said that this village was

built instead of one that formerly stood near it, a little higher in the fields, and this is confirmed by the foundations of houses being frequently discovered by the plough. The old one being destroyed by fire, the inhabitants rebuilt it on this spot, from whence it derived the name of Newton, or New Town.

OAKSEY,

A village adjoining to Charlton. The church here is of high antiquity, and consists of a nave with two side aisles and a chancel, divided from each other by a massive circular arch, indicative of its Anglo-Norman origin. The arches separating the aisles from the nave, and those in the windows, are obtusely pointed; three of the former rest upon round pillars. One of the windows contains fragments of stained glass, representing the seven Sacraments, and several of the pews are ornamented with carved work. On one is the head of a man, with his tongue projecting out. and on another, a shield with an inscription carved in relief, which appears to be very old. The south aisle has three arches on round pillars. Five clerestory windows. In a north window are the remains of a painting of the seven Sacraments, in which may be distinguished the virgin and child, and two bishops.

In a field, south of the church, is a square area, moated and banked, a mount at the north-east corner, and north of that more square banks, as of gardens, and a distinct mount, by itself, at the north end of the field.

Minte or Minty Church, in an adjoining parish, consists of a nave and four pointed arches, two aisles and a chancel.

The father of Admiral Sir William Penn, was of this parish, according to Wood, (Ath. Ox. II. 1050) where his son was born 1621; though his epitaph

in Redcliffe Church, Bristol, makes him a native of that city.

Hankerton Church has a north aisle, divided from the nave by pointed arches on round pillars. The north aisle door is stopped up, and there is only one window, a high pointed door in the north side of the tower stopped. The north-west and south-west buttresses of the tower have niches, and a lion and dog, and a modern shield on the west face. The south porch door is curiously carved.

CRUDWELL,

A village adjoining to Hankerton. The church is a handsome building, with a rich stone south porch, two aisles, in which are three lancets, and the remains of a beautiful window, representing the seven Sacraments in six compartments.

About eight miles from hence is

CRICKLADE,

A place of considerable antiquity, and a borough by prescription; it was originally called *Cerwald*, which in British signifies a rocky or stony place, and was in ancient times of some importance, there having been once belonging to it 1300 hide lands, and it gave name to the hundred now united to that of Highworth. The river Thames is navigable for boats up to this place. The municipal government is vested in a bailiff. The right of parliamentary election has been, on account of the corruption practised here, extended to the freeholders of the five hundreds or divisions of Highworth, Cricklade, Staple, Kingsbridge, and Malmsbury. The weekly market is on Saturday. This town is generally composed of one long street, in the centre of which stands the Town House, supported upon pillars. From an inscription on the south side of it, it appears to have been erected in 1569, when the town was probably more ex-

tensive and important than at present. St. Sampson's here is a large ancient church, built in the form of a cross, with a handsome tower in the centre, which rests upon four pointed arches. The summit is adorned by an open ballustrade and four angular pinnacles, with niches and pedestals. A chapel on the south side, now the entrance porch, was built by one of the Hungerfords; more to the east, is another chapel surmounted by large battlements, and exhibiting, in the centre, the figure of a lion couchant.

St. Mary's Church here is old, and its tower is covered with ivy. It consists of a nave and two aisles, with a chancel. In the church-yard is one of those stone crosses, formerly so common; this consists of a single stone, and the top of the shaft is terminated by a cluster of niches. In the middle of the street is another stone cross resembling this.

About three miles to the south of Cricklade is a village called PURTON; it is very pleasantly situated, has a handsome church, and several good buildings, respectably inhabited.

Some years ago, as some men were digging to make a grave in the chancel of the church, they struck against a stone coffin, about three feet below the surface of the ground, and having with some difficulty raised it up, it was found to measure six feet six inches in length, 22 inches broad, and 11 inches deep, which was hollowed with great art, but the rest of the coffin was of rude workmanship. It was impossible to determine the time when this had been first deposited, as neither figure nor inscription were to be seen. In it were found three skulls of the common size, supposed to have been forced into it by accident, when other graves had been opened in the place, and this opinion is the more probable, from there being no lid, only a piece of decayed board, which might have served as a cover.

About three miles from Purton is Lediard Tre-

goze, a small village; the church here contains a great many monuments of the St. John family, whose pedigree, traced by Sir Richard St. George, knight, Garter King at Arms, from the conquest to the beginning of the 17th century, with the arms and monuments of the intermarrying families, is curiously painted on the folding doors on the north side of the chancel, and within these doors is also painted the tomb of Sir John St. John, who died in 1594, and 1598, with their issue. The descent of this estate is well expressed in the following lines, copied from the above pedigree:

When conquering William won by force of sword
 This famous island, then called Britain land,
 Of Tregoze then was Ewyas only lord,
 Whose heir to Tregoz linkt in marriage bond,
 That Tregoz, a great baron in his age,
 By her had issue the Lord Grauntson's wife,
 Whose daughter Patshull took in marriage
 And Beauchamp theirs which Beauchamp's happy
 life,
 Was blessed with a daughter, whence did spring
 An heir to St. John who did Lydeard bring;
 This course of time by God Almighty's power
 Five hundred and forty-nine years and now more,
 Hath kept this land of Lydeard in one race
 Where at this day is St. John's dwelling-place.
 Noe, Noe; he dwells in heaven, whose anchored
 faith
 Fixed on God, accounted life but death."

The present mansion-house is a handsome modern building.

Three miles south-west from this place is

WOTTON BASSET,

Situated in the hundred of Kingsbridge, an ancient borough town and corporation, but at present a very inconsiderable place; it anciently belonged to the noble family of *Basset*, and came from them to Hugh Despenser, on whose attainder it devolved to the Crown, and in the fifteenth cen-

tury was the residence of the Duke of York, who enclosed here a large park for deer.

This town is a borough by prescription, and has sent members to parliament ever since the first summons; the corporation consists of a mayor, and other officers.

The chief employment of the inhabitants is in the woollen manufactures and agriculture. The trade of this place has, however, received some impulse from the facilities of communication, afforded to it by the Wilts and Berks canal, we have before noticed.

The market day is on Friday.

Journey from Marlborough to Highworth, through Swindon.

About four miles from Marlborough, on the right of our road, is Ogbourn St. Giles, where there was a priory of Benedictines to the abbey of Becell, in Normandy; and in this parish there is an ancient camp called Barbury Castle, where it is supposed the Britons suffered a great defeat in a battle with the Saxons fought in 556. There is another camp called Leddington Castle, two miles north of Ogbourn.

About four miles to the left of our road is WINTERBORN BASSET, where, a little north of Abury is a druidical circle of stones, west of it a single broad high flat stone, and about as far north a barrow, set round with large stones. Dr. Stukely supposes that these circles were for a family chapel of an arch druid.

SWINDON is a large market town, about twelve miles from Marlborough, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, from whence there is a delightful prospect over several parts of Berkshire. There are some very extensive quarries of valuable stone in this parish. The weekly market is on Monday.

Six miles from hence is HIGHWORTH, situated in

the hundred to which it gives name, near the northern extremity of the county, on the borders of Berkshire. The town, which is an inconsiderable place, derives its name most probably from its being built on a hill, which is surrounded by fertile and well cultivated fields. It is called a borough, but there is no record of its having ever sent members to parliament. The church is an indifferent gothic structure, but the living is valuable. The weekly market is on Wednesday.

ANTIQUITIES.

We have already described the more remarkable of these under the heads of Abury, Amesbury, Battlebury, Old Camps, Longford Castle, Marlborough, Devizes Castle, Hungerford Church, Laycock Nunnery, Luggershall Castle, Malmsbury Abbey and Castle, Old Sarum, Salisbury Cathedral, STONEHENGE, Wansdyke, which crosses the county, Wardour Castle, &c.

Natural Curiosities.—These we have also noticed as they occurred during the progress of our journies.

END OF SURVEY OF WILTSHIRE.

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TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF BERKS.

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Mines,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Minerals,	Fairs,
Towns,	Fisheries,	Markets,
Roads,	Manufactures,	Curiosities,
Rivers,	Trade,	Antiquities,
Lakes,	Commerce,	Natural History,
Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.		

To which is prefixed,

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE ;

Exhibiting,

The Direct and principal Cross Roads,

Inns and Distance of Stages,

Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.

Forming a

COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

Also,

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS ;

AND AN INDEX TABLE,

Shewing, at One View, the Distances of all the Towns
from London, and from each other.

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER COOKE,

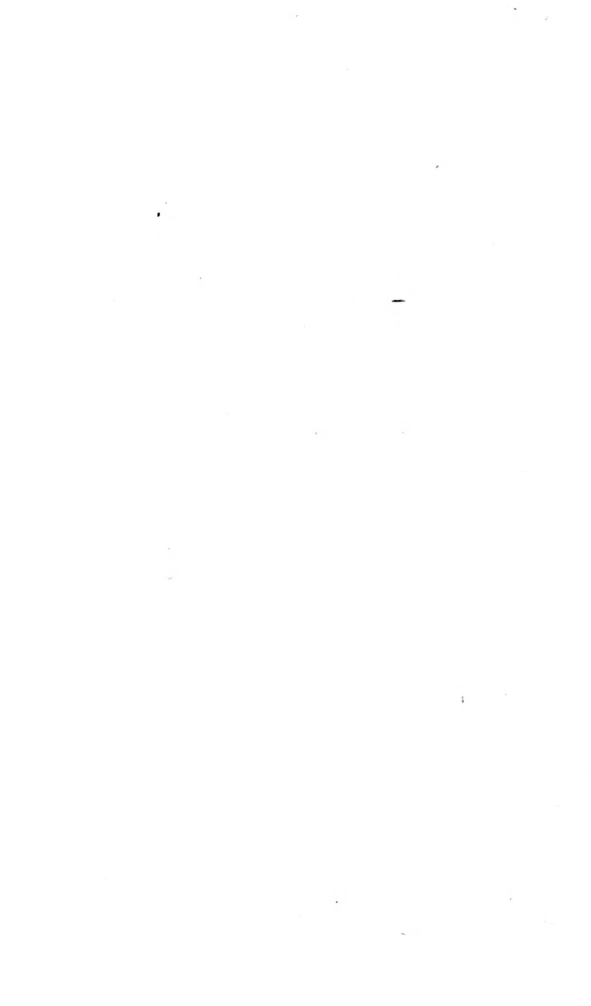
Editor of the Universal System of Geography.

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A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

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INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

In the County of Berks.

The names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the distance.

	Abingdon,	Faringdon,	Hungerford,	East Ilsley,	Lambourne,	Maidenhead,	Newbury,	Reading,	Wallingford,	Wantage,	Windsor,	Wokingham,	Miles,
Faringdon,	14												56
Hungerford,	23	17											71
East Ilsley,	11	15	16										64
Lambourne,	19	12	7	10									53
Maidenhead,	30	40	39	25	38								67
Newbury,	20	25	9	13	50								26
Reading,	25	28	25	16	31	12	18						56
Wallingford,	10	22	25	8	18	20	18	15					39
Wantage,	9	8	14	7	8	32	15	20	14				46
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Wokingham,	32	35	32	23	38	10	25	7	22	27	9	1 Wokingham,	22

INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

This county lies within the diocese of Salisbury, in the Oxford circuit.

<i>Boundaries</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
On the north by Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.	42 miles in its greatest length.	20 hundreds 12 market towns 113 parishes	Nine Members, <i>viz.</i> 2 the county	There are no manufactures in this county of any note. It is principally remarkable for its agricultural produce, consisting of fat cattle, sheep, swine, and grain.
On the east by Surrey.	23 miles in its greatest breadth.	67 vicarages	2 New Windsor	
On the south by Hampshire.	207 miles in circumference.	About 670 villages and hamlets, 464,500 acres.	2 Reading	
And on the west by Wiltshire.		109,215 inhabitants.	2 Wallingford 1 Abingdon	

The name of the county is derived from *Barroc*, a wood which anciently covered a great part of it.

AN ITINERARY OF ALL THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through ; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages ; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

JOURNEY FROM HUNGERFORD TO MAIDENHEAD.

THROUGH NEWBURY AND READING.

HUNGERFORD to			
— — —			Barton, C. Dundas, esq. Wal- lington. A. Nuunis, esq. R
Half-way House	4½	4½	
Benham Park	2	6½	Benham-place, Margravene of Anspach. R
Speen	1	7½	At Speen, Donnington, or Chaucer's Grove, W. Ba- ker, esq. Donnington Cas- tle-house, Col. Steud ; in the Bottom, Frederic Cow- slad esq. L. In Speen, Gold- well-hall, Mrs. Blake, and seats of Miss Hubers ; Os- man Vincent, esq. R Mrs. Bullock, & C. Bailey, esq. L
Speen Hill	¾	8¼	Inn—Castle. At Speen-hill, Mrs. Wyld.
NEWBURY	1½	9¼	
Speenhamland			Inn—George and Pelican. Shaw-house, late Sir Joseph Andrews, bart. L
— — —			Midgham-house, W. Pointz, esq. L.

Thatcham

3

12 $\frac{1}{4}$

Inn—King's Head.

Wasing Place, Wm. Mount,
esq. RWoolhampton-house, E. B.
Long, esq. L

Woolhampton.

P. O.

3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ Aldermaston-house and park,
— Congreve, esq. RA mile from the road, Pad-
worth-house, Mrs. Grif-
fiths, R

Benham-house, Dr. Bostock.

Englefield-house, R. Benyon,
esq. L

Lotmore Green

5

20 $\frac{3}{4}$

Theal

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sulhampsted, Wm. Thoytes,
esq. R

Calcot Green

2 $\frac{1}{4}$ 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ At Calcot-green, J. Blagrove,
esq. LProspect-hill, J. Geo. Line-
brood, esq. LColey, W. Chamberlayne,
esq. RBridge over Ken-
net River.

READING

Inns—Bear, Crown, Caver-
sham-house, Major Mar-
sack, L. Woodley, Right
Hon. Henry Addington,
and — Mabbot, esq. Sun-
ning, R. Palmer, esq, L
Early Court, J. Bagnal,
esq. RStanlake, Sir N. Duckin-
field. RSkiplake on the Hill, E. Bis-
coe, esq. L

<i>Cross the Loddon River.</i>				
Twyford	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	28 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Hare Hatch	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$		Ruscombe-house, Lady Howard, R
— — —				Seats of — Young, esq. L
— — —				— Girdler, esq. R
— — —				Kiln Green, Henry Fonne- rau, esq. L. Scarlet, — Perrot, esq. R
— — —				Seat of — Ximenes, esq. L
Kiln Green	1	31 $\frac{1}{2}$		
— — —				Seat of John Lee, esq. and Wooley-hall, Lord Falk- land. R. Miss Lowndes.
— — —				At a distance from the road is Haywood-lodge, — Saw- yer, esq.
Maidenhead Thicket	3	34 $\frac{1}{2}$		Near Shottesbrook Church is a seat of Arthur Vansit- tart, esq. R
The Folly	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	35 $\frac{3}{4}$		Inn—Fleece.
MAIDENHEAD	$\frac{3}{4}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$		Inns—Fleece, Sun. Bisham Abbey, George Vansittart, esq. L. Hicks, Elisha Bis- coe, esq. L. Seats of Sir W. Hernes, & late Pennystone Powncy, esq. Opposite Sir J. Pocock.

JOURNEY FROM READING TO WINDSOR.

Reading to				
Loddon Bridge	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Merry Hill Green	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$		
— — —				Bill Hill. Col. Leveson Gower. L
— — —				Billingsbare, Lord Braybrook, L

Binfield	4	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inn— <i>Stag and Hounds. At Binfield, — Moffat, esq. Binfield-place, Gen. Rowley; Lady Vernon, — Neate, esq. and Col. Buckenridge.</i>
— — —			<i>At Binfield Bridge is Binfield House, Claude Russel, esq. opposite a seat of Onesiphorus Elliot, esq.</i>
Warfield	1	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Newell Green	$\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Warfield Grove, a seat of Sir John Cox Hippenley, bt. L</i>
Haly Green	$\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>At Haly Green, Hon J. A. Stuart Wortley. L: and a seat of B. Walsh, esq. R.</i>
— — —			<i>Ascott Place, Dan. Agace, esq. R</i>
Winkfield Plain	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>On Winkfield Plain is Cranbourne Lodge, Duke of Gloucester; Fern Hill, F. Knollys, esq. R. New Lodge, late Gen. Hodgson; the seats of Sir John Lade, bart. Stanlake Batson, and James Bannister, esqrs.</i>
— — —	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>St. Leonard's Hill, General Harcourt, & Sophia Farm, G. Birch, esq. L</i>
— — —	1	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Windsor Great Park, His Majesty.</i>
WINDSOR	1	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Inns—Castle, New Inn, Star and Garter, Swan, White Hart.</i>

JOURNEY FROM READING TO SUNNING-
HILL,

THROUGH OAKINGHAM, OR WOKINGHAM.

Reading to <i>Cross the Loddon River.</i>					<i>Maiden Early, — Goding, esq. R</i>
— — —					
Loddon Bridge	4	4			<i>Woodley, Rt. Hon. H. Ad- dington. L White Knights, Marq. of Blandford. R</i>
King Street	1	5			<i>At King Street, Mrs. Whit- comb.</i>
Oakingham, or Wokingham	2	7			<i>Bill Hill, Col. Gower. L</i>
Bracknel	4	11			<i>Embrook, John Baker, esq- Martinsbern, Gen. Gordon. R. — Walsh, esq. L</i>
— — —					<i>Swinley Lodge, Earl of Sand- wich.</i>
Sunning Hill Wells	4	15			<i>At Sunning Hill Wells, J. Sibbald, esq. L</i>
Sunning Hill	$\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$			<i>At Sunning Hill, Capt. Bar- well, and Col. Fitzpatrick. L. Sunning Hill Park, — Crutchly, esq.</i>

JOURNEY FROM NEWBURY TO LAMBOURNE.

Newbury to Welford	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$			<i>At Welford, Welford House, J. Archer, esq.</i>
Great Shefford	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3			
Lambourne	4	12			<i>About three miles beyond Lambourne is Ashdown Park, Earl of Craven.</i>

JOURNEY FROM HENLEY TO MAIDENHEAD.

Henley to — T. G. —					
Hurley Bottom	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$			<i>Danesfield, Robt. Scot, esq. L.</i>

				<i>Hall Place, Sir W. East. R</i> <i>At Bisham is Temple Mills,</i> <i>Thomas Williams, esq. one</i> <i>of the largest Copper-mills</i> <i>in the kingdom. Harle-</i> <i>ford, Sir W. Clayton, bart.</i> <i>and Hurley Place, Capt.</i> <i>Kempensfelt.</i>
Golden Fleece	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
MAIDENHEAD	$\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inns— <i>Fleece, Sun. Near</i> <i>the banks of the Thames is</i> <i>Bisham Abbey, G. Vansit-</i> <i>tart, esq- L</i>	

JOURNEY FROM FARINGDON TO WALLINGFORD,

THROUGH WANTAGE.

Wallingford to Stanford Plain	2½	2½	<i>At Stanford Plain is Shel- lingford Castle, W. Y. Mills, esq. R. Hartford, Joseph Nutt, esq. L</i>
Stanford	1	3½	
East Charlow	4	7½	<i>At Charlow, Exuperius Tur- ner, esq.</i>
WANTAGE	1	3½	<i>Inns—Bear, King Alfred's Heud. Charlton House, W. H. Price, esq. L</i>
— — —			<i>Lockinge, — Bastard, esq.</i>
Harwell	6	14½	
Brightwell	6	20½	
— — —			<i>Whittenham-hill, N. Dance, esq. L</i>
WALLINGFORD	2	22½	<i>Inns—Bear, Lamb.</i>

JOURNEY FROM LECHLADE TO ABINGDON,

THROUGH FARINGDON.

Lechlade to Cross the River Isis.			<i>Lechlade-house, W. Fox, esq,</i>
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St. John's Bridge	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	
Buscot	$1\frac{1}{4}$	2	Buscot Park, E. Loveden Loveden. esq. R
Yetton	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	
FARINGDON	$2\frac{1}{2}$	6	Inns—Bell, Crown. Far- ringdon-house, W. Hallet, esq.
Littleworth	$\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	
— — —			Wadley-house, Benj. Stead, esq. R
— — —			Carswell-house, Henry Perfect, esq. L
— — —			Buckland-house. Sir J. Throckmorton, bart. L
— — —			Pusey-house, Hon. P. H. Pusey, R; and Rev. John Loder. L
Pusey Furze	3	$10\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—Rose and Crown
Kingston Bagpuze	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$	Inn—George, at Kingston, W. Blandy, esq. R-
Fifield	1	$14\frac{1}{2}$	Fifield-house, late B. Byam, esq. L
Tubney	$\frac{3}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{4}$	At Tubney, S. Lawrance, esq. L
— — —			Oakley-house, J. Tomkins, esq, L
Oakley	1	$16\frac{1}{4}$	
Shippon	2	$18\frac{1}{4}$	At Shippon, M. Anthony, esq. L
ABINGDON	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{1}{2}$	Inns—Crown and Thistle, Queen's Arms.

JOURNEY FROM OXFORD TO HIGHWORTH, IN WILTSHIRE,

THROUGH FARINGDON.

Oxford to			
Botley Bridge	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	
Chorley	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	
Besselsleigh	2	$5\frac{1}{2}$	
— — —			Seat of — Lawrence, esq. L

Fifield	3	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inn— <i>Old White Hart.</i> <i>Fifield-house, late B. Byam,</i> <i>esq.</i>
Kingston	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inn— <i>George. At King-</i> <i>ston, W. Walker, esq. and</i> <i>W. Blandy, esq.</i>
Pusey Furze	3	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inn— <i>Rose and Crown.</i> <i>Pusey-house, Hon. P. Pusey.</i> <i>Buckland-h. Sir. J. Throck-</i> <i>morton, bart. R.</i>
— — —			<i>Carswell-house, H. Perfect,</i> <i>esq. R</i>
— — —			<i>Wadley-house, B. Stead, esq.</i> <i>L</i>
FARINGDON	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inn— <i>Bell, Crown. Faring-</i> <i>don-house, W. Hallet, esq.</i>
Coleshill	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Coleshill, Earl of Rad-</i> <i>nor. L</i>
Eastrop T. G.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	
HIGHWORTH	$\frac{3}{4}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	

JOURNEY FROM OXFORD TO NEWBURY,
THROUGH ABINGDON AND EAST ILSLEY.

Oxford to			
Bailey Wood	3	3	
— — —			<i>Radley-hall, late Admiral</i> <i>Boyer.</i>
ABINGDON	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inns— <i>Crowns and Thistle,</i> <i>Queen's Arms.</i>
Drayton	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Steventon	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Chilton	4	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
EAST ILSLEY	3	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inn— <i>Swan.</i>
Askeridge	2	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Beedon	$\frac{1}{2}$	20	
— — —			<i>Langley-hall, Charles Beck-</i> <i>ford Long, esq. L</i>
Chieveley	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Prior's Court, Lewis Buckle,</i> <i>esq.</i>

Donnington	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	26	<i>The Castle-house, Col. Stead. The Grove, W. Brummel, esq. The Cottage, George Blackshaw, esq.</i>
Speenhamland			<i>Inn—George and Pelican</i>
Newbury	1	27	<i>Inn—White Hart.</i>

**JOURNEY FROM OXFORD TO HUNGERFORD,
THROUGH ABINGDON AND WANTAGE.**

Oxford to			
Baily Wood	3	3	
ABINGDON	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Inn—Crown and Thistle.</i>
Drayton	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Steventon	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
— — —			<i>Charlton-house, Wm. Henry Price, esq. R</i>
WANTAGE	6	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Inns—Bear, K. Alfred's Head.</i>
— — —			<i>Woolley Park, Rev. Mr. Wroughton. L</i>
— — —			<i>Fawley, — Pocock, esq. L</i>
Great Shefford	8	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	
New Town	4	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Eddington	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{1}{4}$	
<i>Cross the Kennet River.</i>			
Hungerford	$\frac{1}{4}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Inn—Black Bear.</i>

END OF THE ITINERARY.

A
CORRECT LIST OF THE FAIRS
IN
BERKSHIRE.

- Abingdon*—First Monday in Lent, May 6, cattle; June 20, August 6, cattle; Monday before Old Michaelmas, statute; Dec. 11, horses and other cattle.
- Aborfield*—Oct. 5. cattle.
- Aldermaston*—May, 6, July horses, cattle, &c.
- Bracknell*—April 25, cows, sheep, &c. August 22, horses, cows, hogs, &c. October 1, sheep and other cattle.
- Chapel Row, near Reading*--July 30, pleasure, toys, &c.
- Cookham*—May 16, cattle, pedlary, &c. October 11, statute.
- East Hagburn*—Thursday before St. Michael, O. S. Oct. 10, pleasure.
- East Ilsley*.—Wednesday in Easter week, and every other Wednesday till July, August 6, sheep and lambs; First Wednesday after Sept. 29, Wednesday after October 17, Wednesday after November 12, sheep, &c. Every Wednesday fortnight from Easter to Midsummer, a great market for sheep.
- Earingdon*—February 13, horses and fat cattle; Whit Tuesday, do. do. Tuesday before and Tuesday after Old Michaelmas, statute; Oct. 29, horses, fat cattle, and large quantities of pigs.
- Finchamstead*—April 23, cattle.
- Hungerford*—Last Wednesday in April, August 10, horses, cows, and sheep; Monday before and after New Michaelmas, statute.
- Lambourn*—May 12, October 2, December 4, horses, cows, boots, shoes, and young foals.
- Long Cromarch*—August 2, cheese, horses, toys, and pigs.
- Maidenhead*—Whit Wednesday, horses and cattle; September 29, horses, cattle, and hiring servants; Nov. 30, horses and cattle.
- Mortimer*—April 27, horses
cows,

- cows, sheep, hogs and pedlary; November 6, horses and Welch cattle.
- New-Bridge*—March 31, September 28, cheese and horses.
- Newbury*—Holy Thursday, horses and other cattle; July 5, horses, cows, and hogs; Sept. 3, Nov. 1, cheese and horses.
- Oakingham*—April 23, June 11, October 10, Nov. 2, horses and cattle.
- Reading*—Feb. 2, horses, cattle and pigs; May 1, horses, cattle, and pigs. September 21, cheese, horses, cattle and hogs.
- Thatcham*—Second Tuesday after Easter week, and first Tuesday after Sept. 29, cattle, &c.
- Twyford*—July 24, and October 11, horses, other cattle, and toys.
- Wallingford*—Tuesday before Easter, pleasure; June 24, horses; Sept. 29, for hiring servants; December 14, fat hogs.
- Wadley, near Farringdon*—April 5, horses, cows.
- Wantage*—First Saturday in March, First Saturday in May, horses, cows, pigs and cheese; July 18, do. and cherries. October 10, 17, horses, cows, pigs, cheese, and hogs, and hiring servants.
- Waltham St. Lawrence*—April 10, horses and cattle.
- Windsor*—Easter Tuesday, horses and cattle; July 5, do. sheep, and wool; October 24, horses and cattle.
- Yatton, near Newbury*—October 13.



LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL WORKS

That have been Published

In Illustration of the Topography and Antiquities of
THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

“Magna Britannia, being a concise Topographical Account of the several Counties of Great Britain. By the Rev. Daniel Lysons, and Samuel Lysons, Esq. 1st. Volume, 1806, contains a most valuable Account of Berkshire,” as does Messrs. Britton and Brayley’s “Beauties of England and Wales.”

“The Antiquities of Berkshire,” by Elias Ashmole, 3 volumes, 8vo. Lond. 1719, 1723. This was reprinted at Reading in 1736, under the Title of “The History and Antiquities of Berkshire, &c.” Folio.

“Account of some Antiquities between Windsor and Oxford,” by Thomas Hearne, 8vo, L. P. Oxford, 1725.

“Letter to Dr. Mead concerning some Antiquities in Berkshire,” by Mr. Francis Wise, 4to. Oxford, 1738. This was replied to in a Pamphlet called “The Impertinence and Imposture of modern Antiquaries displayed, &c. 4to. Lond. written by Mr. Asplin, vicar of Banbury, (under the signature of Philathes Rusticus,) who was deservedly reprehended in another pamphlet by Mr. George North, Rector of Coddicote, Herts, in his “Answer to a scandalous Libel, entitled, the Impertinence, &c.” 4to. Lond. 1742. Mr. Wise the same year, published, “Further Observations upon the White Horse, and other Antiquities in Berkshire, with an Account of Whiteleaf Cross, Bucks, &c.” 4to. Oxford.

“History and Antiquities of Windsor Castle,” by J. Pote. *Cuts*, 4to. Eton, 1749.

“History of that most famous Saint and Soldier of Christ Jesus, St. George of Cappadoicia, &c. to which is subjoined, the Institution of the most Noble Order
of

LIST OF TOPOGRAPHICAL WORKS, &c. 17
of St. George, named the Garter," by Dr. Heylon, 4 to.
1631.

"The Institution, Laws, and Ceremonies, of the Most Noble Order of the Garter," by Elias Ashmole, Lond. fol. with fine engravings by Hollar, 1672. This was abridged and republished by Walker, under the Title of "The History of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, and the several Orders of Knighthood extant in Europe, &c." Illustrated with Plates of the Habits. Lond. 8vo, 1715.

"A New Historical Account of St. George, and the Order of the Garter," by Thomas Salmon, Lond. 8vo. 1704.

"Memoirs of St. George, the English Patron," (from Selden's Titles of Honor,) "and of the Most Noble Order of the Garter," (abridged from Ashmole) by Dr. Thomas Dawson, 8vo. 1714.

"The Register of the Most Noble Order of the Garter," from the "Black Book," so called from its cover of Black Velvet: "with Notes, and an Introduction;" by John Anstis, 2 volumes, fol. 1724, plates.

"Dissertations on the Original of the Equestrian Figure of the George, and of the Garter," by Dr. Pettingal. Lond. 1753. The system about the George in this Dissertation was refuted by Mr. Pegge, in the fifth volume of the *Archæologia*.

"The Institution of the Garter, a Dramatic Poem," by Gilbert West, Esq. 4to. 1742. This was re-printed in the 2d volume of Dodsley's Collection.

"Some Account of the Antiquities of Old Windsor," by Dr. Girdler, printed with Robert of Gloucester, by Hearne.

"Windsor Castle," A Poem by Otway, 1635. Re-printed in Dryden's Miscellanies.

"The Rights of the Forest of Windsor;" by Nat. Boothe, 8vo. 1719.

"A Black Scene opened; being the true state of Mr. John Kendrick's Gift to the Town of Reading, &c," by John Watts, 1749.

Some Account of Reading Abbey, by Sir Henry Englefield, is contained in the sixth volume of the *Archæologia*.

"The Meyrrour of the Church of St. Austyn of Abingdon, with a petytyon of Robert Copeland, Printer, 1521." 4to. with wooden cuts.

"Collections towards a Parochial History of Berkshire, &c." 1783, and some account of the Parish of Great Coxwell, were published in the *Bibliotheca Topographica*.

"The History of Mr. John Winchcomb, alias Jack of Newbury," was reprinted at Newbury about 20 years since, from an old pamphlet. In Fuller's *Worthies* there is also an account of the same person.

In the *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 261, is some account of the Oyster Shells near Reading, by Dr. Brewer; and in the same work, Vol. 50. Dr. Collet's Description of the Peat near Newbury. The latter is reprinted in the *Bibliotheca Topographica*.

A brief Description of the Towns, Villages, and Scenery of Berkshire, bordering on the Thames, has been given in *Boydell's* and in *Ireland's Account of that River*.

The third volume of the *Archæologia* contains an Engraving of the Pusey Horn, with some particulars concerning it.

Several Poems, descriptive of different parts of the county, have been published. The most eminent are Pope's "Windsor Forest," Pye's "Farringdon Hill," Sir John Denham's "Cooper's Hill," and "St. Leonard's Hill," by Robert Morris.

A small Map of the County was engraved by Hollar, in 1670; and a Topographical Survey of Berks, in 18 sheets, on a scale of 2 inches to a mile, was published
by

by John Rocque in 1761. A Map of the county 10 miles round Newbury, with a plan of the town and Speenhamland, were made and printed by John Willis, 1768.

Views of the town of Reading, south, Windsor Castle and Palace, and Donnington Castle, north-east, have been engraved by Buck. A view of the latter castle has also been published by Hearne and Byrne, and a plan of it, in its original state, in Grose's *Antiquities*. In the "*Brauni Civitates Orbis, 1572*," is a view of Windsor Castle by Hoefnagle, probably the oldest existing. The Cielings of the Apartments in the Castle, painted by Verrio, were engraved by P. Vanderbank. Four Elevations and a plan of the castle were drawn and engraved by B. and T. Langley, 1743. Eight Views in the Green Park, by T. Sandby, were engraved by Mason, P. Sandby, W. Austin, Canot, Vivares, and Rooker. Eight Views of Reading Abbey, by Charles Tomkins, were published in 1791; and views of Basildon House and Pelling Place, by Angus, in his *Select Views*, 1800. In the *Copper-Plate Magazine*, Vol. I. are Views of Bisham Abbey and Windsor. Vol. II. of Basildon Park. Vol. III. of Bear Place. Vol. V. of Benham House, and Abingdon Market House; drawn by Dayes, Girtin, Corbould, &c. and engraved by Ellis and Walker.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

BOUNDARIES, SITUATION, AND EXTENT.

BERKSHIRE is an inland county, of a very irregular form. According to Roque's Mensuration it is 207 miles in circumference: its greatest length, from Old Windsor to the County Cross, near Hungerford, 42 miles: its greatest breadth, from Witham near Oxford to the borders of Hampshire, south of Newbury, about 28 miles, and its narrowest, from the Thames near Reading, across to the borders of Hampshire, in a direct south line, only seven miles. It is bounded on the north by the counties of Oxford and Buckingham, on the east by Surrey, on the south by Hampshire, and on the west by the county of Wilts. A part of the latter county lies in the heart of Berkshire, including the parishes of Wokingham, Hurst, Stunfield and Swallowfield: a small portion of Berkshire lies on the north side of the Thames, surrounded by Oxfordshire.

The county of Berks contains about 464,500 acres, including the parishes of Langford and Shilton, north of the Thames, and omitting that part of Wiltshire within the county. According to the returns under the population act in 1801, Berkshire then contained 109,215 inhabitants, of whom 38,155 were employed in agriculture and 16,921 in trades, manufactures, or handicraft.

According to Camden, the county now called Berkshire was anciently named by the Latin writers *Bercheria*; by the Saxons *Beroc-scyre*, which name *Asser Menevensis*, an ancient English historian, derives from *Barroc*, a certain wood, where grew plenty of box. It is more probable that it may have been derived from the quantity of Birch wood growing anciently in the county; the soil, in general, being more adapted to the growth of that

that wood than any other and there being several instances of other places deriving their name from the same circumstance.

The ancient inhabitants of a great part of this county were the *Attrebatii* or *Attrebates*, who are supposed to have emigrated from Gaul.

The south-eastern part of the county was inhabited by a people called the *Bibroci*, or *Rhemi*, and a small portion of it next Hampshire, by the *Segonticæ*. And it appears from the derivations given by Mr. Owen, in the second volume of the *Cambrian Register*, that the name of each tribe had its origin from the general characteristic of that portion of the county they occupied.

Under the division of Britain by the Roman Emperor Constantine, this county was included in the *BRITANNIA PRIMA*. During the Saxon heptarchy it formed a part of the kingdom of Wessex or West Saxons. In the reign of Alfred it assumed the present name of Berocshire or Berkshire, and was by him divided into twenty-two hundreds.

RIVERS.

The principal of Berkshire, are the Thames, the Kennet, the Lodden, the Ock, the Lambourne, and Enborn. The first of these, which indeed is the *FIRST* of all the British streams, enters the county at its northern extremity, about a mile south of Lechdale, and pursues a beautiful winding course, along the whole of the northern side of the county, dividing it from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and watering in its progress the towns of Abingdon, Wallingford, Henly, Maidenhead, Windsor, &c. There are seventeen bridges over this river between Datchet and Lechdale, and it is navigable during the whole of its course. Mr. Pope has beautifully described this fine river in his Windsor Forest.

“ From his oozy bed,

Old Father Thames advanc'd his rev'rend head,

His

His tresses drop'd with dews, and o'er the stream
 His shining horns diffus'd a golden gleam;
 Grav'd on his urn appear'd the moon, that guides,
 His swelling waters, and alternate tides :
 The figur'd streams in waves of silver roll'd,
 And on her banks Augusta, rob'd in gold ;
 Around his throne the sea-born brothers stood,
 Who swell with tributary urns his flood :
 First the fam'd authors of his ancient name,
 The winding *Isis*, and the fruitful *Thame* ;
 The *Kennet* swift, for silver eels renown'd ;
 The *Lodden* slow, with verdant alders crown'd ;
Cole, whose dark streams his flow'ry islands lave,
 And chalkey *Wey*, that rolls a milky wave ;
 The blue transparent *Vandalis* appears ;
 The gulphy *Lee* his sedgy tresses rears ;
 And sullen *Mole*, that hides his diving flood ;
 And silent *Darent*, stain'd with Danish blood."

The name of this river has been variously derived ; some calling it the *Isis*, till its conflux with the little *Thame*, and from *Thame* and *Isis*, have formed *Thamisis* or *Thames*. The notion that the name of the river *Thames* is thus derived has indeed been generally received ; and yet there is incontestible proof that it is erroneous ; the name *Isis* has seldom been heard but among scholars, though it has been almost constantly copied out of one book into another. The common people call this river the *Thames* quite from its source : and in an ancient charter, granted to abbot Aldein, particular mention is made of certain lands on the east part of the river "*cujus vocabulum Temis juxta vadum qui appellatur Summerford*," and as this Summerford is in Wiltshire, it is evident that the river was then called *Temis* or *Tems*, before its junction with the *Thame*. The same thing appears in every charter and authentic history where this river is mentioned, particularly in several charters granted to the abbey of Malmisbury, and some old deeds

deeds relating to Cricklade, both which places are also in Wiltshire. All our historians who mention the incursions of Ethelwold into Wiltshire, in the year 905, or Canute in the year 1016, tell us they passed over the *Thames* at Cricklade. The Saxons called it *Temese*, quite from its source, and from *Temese* our *Tems* or *Thames* is immediately derived. The word seems indeed to have been originally British, as it is the name of several other rivers in different parts of the island, particularly the little river *Thame*, whose name the *Isis* has been supposed to borrow, the *Tame* in Staffordshire, the *Teme* in Herefordshire, and the *Tamer* in Cornwall. Mr. Lehwyl, the antiquary of Wales, affirms that the Saxon *Temese* was derived from their *Taf* or *Tavyys*, a name which is common to many rivers in Wales, and signifies a gentle stream; the Romans having first changed their *f* or *v* into *m* as they did in their word *Demetra*, which in Welch is *Dyfed*.

The *Kennet* enters Berkshire at Hungerford, and becoming navigable at Newbury, passes from thence through a rich vale, and after flowing through Reading, unites its waters with the *Thames*. "It is remarkable" says Mr. Gough, "that at Reading those wells, between which and the *Thames* the *Kennet* has its course, rise and fall with the *Thames*, not with the *Kennet*; hence it is argued that the bed of *Thames* is much lower than that of the *Kennet*, and detaches its springs under the bed of the latter."

The river *Lodden* rises near Aldershot in Hampshire; at Black-water it begins to be a boundary between that county and Berkshire, and so continues for about eight miles pursuing a westerly direction. It enters Berkshire in the parish of Swallowfield, and after a course of about twelve miles it falls into the *Thames* near Wingrave. The waters of the
Lodden

Lodden are increased by a brook called the Emme, which it receives at Sandford Mill.

The river *Ock* has its source near Uffington, and after an easterly course of nearly 20 miles, at length falls into the Thames, near Abingdon.

The *Enburn* rises in Berkshire, near Inkpen, and soon becomes a boundary between this county and Hampshire. It continues an eastward direction for nearly twelve miles, when bending northward it again enters the county, and a little below Wasing, falls into the Kennet, after a course of about seventeen miles.

The *Lambourne* rises near the town of that name, and after a course of about fifteen miles passing through Bockington Eastbury, East Garston, the two Sheffords, Weston, Walford, Easton, Westbrook, Boxford, Bagnor, Donnington, and Shaw, it at length falls into the Kennet. The river Lambourne has been much celebrated on account of its being always fuller in summer than winter, which does not appear to be the fact. It indeed preserves during the whole year an uniform degree of fulness, being neither affected by the drought of summer or inundations in winter. During the remarkable drought of the summer of 1803, its source was entirely dried up for several months.

NAVIGABLE CANALS.

The *Wilts and Berks Canal*, which was undertaken in 1793, will enter Berkshire at Hackson Bridge, near Shrivenham, pass by Shrivenham and Liffington, leave Sparsholt and Childrey on the south, pass by the Challows, and near Wantage, to which there is to be a collateral cut, and between Hanney and Drayton to Abingdon.

The *Kennet and Avon Canal* enters Berkshire at Hungerford, and passes parallel with the Kennet to Newbury.

AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

Soil.

The following appears to be a correct statement of the agricultural appropriation of land in this county.

	<i>Acres.</i>
Land in arable, - - - - -	255,000
Meadows in various parts and dairy land } in the vale - - - - -	72,000
Sheep-walks, uninclosed on the Chalk Hills	25,000
Pasture Parks, &c. - - - - -	20,000
Wastes, chiefly barren heaths, - - -	30,000

The residue of the land is taken up in the space occupied by buildings, roads, rivers, &c.

Close to the Thames, in the northern part of the county, there is a fertile line of meadow, from which the land rises gently towards a range of moderately elevated hills, extending from Oxford to Faringdon. There is some very good corn land upon these hills, though in some parts too sandy.

Descending to the south we enter the remarkably fertile vale of Berkshire, which crosses the county from the parish of Shrivenham on the west, to Cholsey on the eastern boundary. The soil of this vale is in general a strong, grey, calcareous loam.

On the south of the vale are the Chalk Hills, covered with a fine turf of sheep pasture.

The greatest part of the southern side of the county, from Hungerford to Windsor (except a part of the Kentbury hundred, and some land on the south side the Kennet, and the greatest part of Windsor Forest) consists chiefly of a gravelly loam.

From Hungerford to Reading there is a line, consisting of a bed of peat, through which the river Kennet takes its course.

Near Hungerford, south of the Kennet, there commences a tract of poor gravel and clay.

The tract of meadows contiguous to the river Kennet, from Hungerford in the west to Reading in the east, are all of them watered in a masterly style ; and the quantity of hay cut from them, independent of the early feed, is very great.

Part of the tract of meadow, however, has for its surface a gravelly soil, which, of all others, is best adapted for water meadows. The other part, of tract from one quarter to three quarters of a mile in breadth, and sixteen miles in length, consists of peat, a soil though known by name in most counties is not elsewhere of that peculiar and excellent quality as in the neighbourhood of Newbury, and other parts of Berkshire, towards Oxford.

Such meadows as have peat under them are not reckoned so valuable to the tenant, but to the landlord much more so. One acre of land has been let for 300*l.* where the purchase, was limited,

First, to cut no deeper than six feet.

Secondly, to cut and clear off the whole in the course of the year, and lastly he was to pare off the sward, that was on the acre at the time of the agreement, and relay it in a proper manner on the surface, after he had got out the peat ; in order that it, when returned to the landlord, be in a state for meadow land again.

The great value of peat arises from the demand for it as a fuel, and for its ashes as a manure. This manure is considered as an excellent improver of grass lands, particularly clover leys, and sanfoin, which shew to an inch where the peat ash has been laid upon them. The quantity necessary to dress an acre is reckoned from fifteen to twenty-five bushels, according to the condition of the land.

Within the peat great numbers of trees have been found, lying irregularly on each other, of various kind, oaks, alders, willows, and firs ; and others so much decayed that their species could not be ascertained. No acorns are found in the
peat,

peat, though the cones of the fir-tree frequently are, and also a great quantity of hazel nuts.

Some years ago, an urn, of a light brown colour and large enough to contain above a gallon, was found in the true peat, about eight or ten feet from the river on Speen Moor. It lay about four feet below the level of the ground, and about a foot within the peat, and over it was raised an artificial hill, about eight feet higher than the neighbouring ground. As the whole hill consisted both of peat and meadow land mixed together, it plainly appeared that the peat was older than the urn, and that the person who raised the hill must first have dug a large hole in the peat to bury the urn, and then formed the hill of the peat and meadow ground mixed together. Round the hill where the urn lay, were several semicircular ridges, with trenches between them : the extremities of the semicircles were bounded by the line of the river. The horns, heads, and bones of several kinds of deer, the horns of the antelope, the heads and tusks of boars, the heads of beavers, human bones, and various other things, have at different times been discovered imbedded within the peat, and generally at the bottom of it, next the gravelly stratum upon which it lies.

Mode of Management,

In consequence of the great extent of barren heath, on the south side of the country in its eastern parts, and of the sheep walks on the Chalk Hills, the proportion of cultivated land does not exceed the general average of the kingdom.

With respect to the various modes of management of the arable land, it will be sufficient to observe, that the best systems of modern husbandry are universally adopted and successfully pursued.

The farms in this county are in general large ;* for unless it is from some local circumstance, it is

very rare to find a farm under one hundred pounds a year. In the vale of White Horse indeed some smaller dairy and grazing farms are to be found ; but there are more farms of from two to five hundred a year than of any other size.

In the open and hilly parts of the county there is a necessity indeed for large farms ; since the soil is made the most of, by that kind of husbandry which depends on a large stock of sheep, which the little farmer cannot avail himself of.

Live Stock.

The neat cattle grazed in this county are generally of the Herefordshire, Shropshire, Glamorgan-shire, and other parts of South Wales, bought in at spring and fall. The system of fattening with turnips is not universally adopted. In the grazing parts of the vale of White Horse, where a great quantity of beasts are annually stall-fed, they are generally fattened with hay, beans, and barley meal, oil cake, &c. Linseed, both dry and steeped, is given by some graziers, and found to answer exceeding well.

The cows most esteemed in this county are those of the north-country breed ; they are excellent milkers, and well adapted to the dairy farms of the vale. The dairymen keep up the succession partly by rearing and partly by buying heifers in calf, at Lambourn and other fairs in the county.

The Berkshire farmer derives a considerable profit from the rearing of horses. Some breed their own stock, and others buy in sucklers, which they put to work very early, and after using them for two or three years, sell them off to the brewers in London, and to the stage waggoners, at high prices.

Berkshire has, and ever must have, from the nature of the soil, a great quantity of sheep kept upon it : the present are certainly not only a very useful but handsome stock, and are in great repute
in

in the neighbouring counties. They are well adapted for folding; being strong and active; they travel long ranges during the day, and from their size and weight are good folding sheep at night. The Leicestershire sheep and South Down have been introduced into this county with considerable success, particularly on the inclosed lands. The Dorset breed is also much approved.

The quantity of swine fattened in Berkshire is certainly very great. In the small town of Faringdon only upwards of 4000 are annually slaughtered for the London and Oxford markets, between the beginning of November and the beginning of April. This, however, is in a part of the county where the dairy farms are situated; but nevertheless when it is considered how many store pigs are sent annually to the distillers and starch-makers in the vicinity of London, Berkshire receives no inconsiderable return from this profitable kind of stock.

At the east end of the county, poultry becomes very profitable from its vicinity to London. A great number of higlers attend regularly on market days to purchase them, and the number weekly sent away is prodigious.

Berkshire, with respect to the situation of its markets, is peculiarly well situated. They are distributed so well that a distance of ten miles to a market is difficult to be found.

Newbury, Reading, Abingdon, Wallingford, and Windsor have all the advantages of water carriage to London, and the interior parts of the kingdom. The two former send a prodigious quantity of flour to London, and the others barley and malt to a considerable amount.

East Ilsley has of late become a sheep market of the first importance, not only to Berkshire but to the neighbouring counties. Not less than 20,000 sheep have sometimes been sold in one market day; and

it is computed that the annual average is not under 250,000, comprising lambs, hogs, wethers, and ewes ; but they are chiefly lean sheep.

Newbury has, time out of mind, been justly considered a most excellent corn market, and still retains some customs that would be of great use if they were observed in all other markets. Here the grain is pitched in open market, and offered to the public in small as well as large quantities, and the farmer, let him sell much or little, has his money paid on delivery of the article, verifying the old observation on Newbury market that :

“ The farmer may take back

“ His money in his sack.”

Waste Lands.

There are some extensive waste lands in the eastern part of the county, such as Maidenhead Thicket, several parts of Windsor Forest, and its neighbourhood. These wastes consist principally of large tracts of barren heath land, amounting in the whole to nearly 30,000 acres. Their improvement must certainly depend in a great measure, on the comparative value of money, and the produce of agriculture.— For it cannot be expected that this improvement should be made to any great extent, unless the value of that produce will evidently afford to the improver a rent which shall sufficiently indemnify him for his expences. We apprehend, however, that these wastes might be more advantageously improved by planting than by their conversion into tillage.

Windsor Forest was formerly of much greater extent than it is at present, including parts of Buckinghamshire, besides the whole of the south-eastern parts of Berkshire as far as Hungerford. The Vale of the Kennet was disforested by charter in 1226. Norden's map of the forest, taken in the year 1607, makes its circuit 77 miles and a half, exclusive of those parts which extended into Buckinghamshire. It was then divided into seventeen walks, including Friennes

Friennes Bailiwick, within which were situated the parishes of Remenham, Hurley Wargrave, Bray, the two Walthams, Shottesbrook, Hurst, Ruscomb and Binfield. Rocque in his map describes the circuit of the forest to be about 56 miles, including the whole of the parishes of Aborfield, Barkham, Binfield, East Hamsted, Finch-Hamsted, Sandhurst, Sunninghill, Warfield, Winkfield, New and Old Windsor, together with part of the parishes of Bray, Clewer Hurst, Wokingham, Swallowfield and White Waltham. A considerable part of Bagshot Heath is within the forest; the greater part of most of the parishes within its limits are in a state of cultivation.

Windsor Great Park, which reverted to his present majesty on the death of the Duke of Cumberland in the year 1791, has been reduced from 3800 to 1800 acres, 2000 acres having been brought into cultivation. The whole tract formerly abounded with moss, fern, rushes, ant-hills, and swamps; and its scanty produce hardly afforded a sufficient support for 3000 deer. Far different is its present state: the wet parts have been rendered firm and sound by the Essex mode of under ground draining; the rushes weakened and destroyed by draining and rolling; the moss and small hillocks extirpated by harrowing; the large ant-hills cleared by the scarifier; the fern weakened by mowing; the irregular banks levelled; the pits filled up; the vallies opened; the hills ornamented with new plantations, the stiff line of trees, the vestiges of hedge rows judiciously broken: and the park, though now reduced to 1800 acres, supports the same number of deer in much better health and condition. The residue of the park is disposed into two farms, respectively denominated *The Norfolk* and *Flemish Farm*.

The Norfolk Farm, consisting of about 1000 acres of a light sandy loam and gravelly soil, is divided into two parts one allotted to sheep walks the other

is disposed in arable land, managed in a five course shift of 100 acres in a class, and cropped in the following course: first wheat or rye, second vetches, rye, and potatoes; third, turnips; fourth, barley or oats; fifth, clover.

In order to break up and clear some of the strong land on this farm, which was found difficult and expensive to be done in the common way, an experiment was made, which from the success attending it deserves particular notice. In the early part of the winter it was ploughed to a full depth, with a swing plough whose mould board was so placed as to lay the turf in an inverted position. This was well trodden with cattle and rolled, and the sheep occasionally driven over it. In the spring it was harrowed and cropped with oats, which were no sooner off than the surface was again harrowed and dragged, so as to get as much loose earth as possible without bringing up the turf; early in autumn it was sown with winter vetches, and the beginning of June ploughed cross ways, when the turf turned up quite rotten, and the land was got into a clean state by the first week in July; both turnips and wheat were afterwards sown and succeeded admirably.

By the improvements made upon the land of this farm its value has been encreased at least six times. The folding or penning of sheep upon the fallows has considerably promoted this beneficial result, from 600 to 800 Wiltshire wethers being commonly kept as a folding flock.

In the Transactions of the Society of Arts, Vol. XVII. the following singular mode of folding the sheep, in hard or wet weather, is described by N. Kent, Esq. the superintendant of the agricultural establishment. "A dry sheltered spot is selected; and sodo of maiden earth, a foot deep, are laid over the space of a large fold. It is then bedded thinly with rushes, leaves of trees, fern, moss, short straw or stubble; and the flock instead of being penned upon the clo-
ver

ver in the open fields are put into this warmer fold, when the usual quantity of hay is given to them in racks ; and every night they are so penned, the fold is fresh littered. When this has been continued, at intervals, during the winter, a lime-chalk rubble or ashes six inches thick is spread over the whole surface, and when it has heated together the whole is turned up about the month of April, and when mixed, it makes the best manure that can be used for turnips."

The Flemish Farm contains about 1000 acres, situated at the north extremity of the park, and it was originally proposed to have managed the land according to the system of husbandry pursued in Flanders ; the soil, however, being found too strong and cohesive a mode of culture more congenial to its nature was of necessity adopted. The first year after breaking up wheat is sown ; second cabbages or clover ; third oats ; fourth beans. The arable land on this farm comprehends about one third of it.

In addition to its agricultural improvement, the park has had its natural beauty very much increased by several valuable plantations, which have been made on the higher grounds.

Woods.

The south and east sides of the county have a large proportion of wood-land appertaining to them. The predominant wood is hazel ; sometimes, however, it is mixed with ash, oak, beech, willow, and alder. There are also some few beech woods to be found entire.

MINERALS.

There are none of any value as yet discovered in this county. In a small field, called Catsgrove near Reading, there is a stratum of sand, about two feet thick, in which are great quantities of oyster shells ; above this is a bed of blue clay, about a yard thick
and

and immediately above this is a stratum of fuller's earth, nearly two feet and a half deep.

Lime-stone is to be found in various parts of the county, especially near Faringdon, in the stratum of which fossil shells, and other marine productions, are to be seen in great abundance.

The remarkable stones called by the country people *Sarsden-stones*, or the *Grey-wethers*, which are scattered over the Berkshire and Wiltshire Downs, are of a fine siliceous grit: they are frequently used for pitching, after having been burst in pieces by means of gunpowder, but they are too hard to be worked with the tool.

There is no satisfactory account of the removal of these stones to the situation in which they are found; which evidently does not naturally belong to them.

The appellation of *Grey Wethers* their appearance at a distance well warrants; being very much like grey sheep lying on the ground.

There is a mineral water at Cumner in this county, which was formerly in much repute, but long since disused.

There is another at Sunninghill, and a strong chalybeate spring, called Gorrick Well, near Luckley House in the parish of Wokingham, and some springs near Windsor of the nature of Epsom waters.

About ten years ago a vein of free-stone was discovered at *Hose Hill* in the parish of Burghfield, on the south side of the river Kennet: it was, however, found to be of too soft a texture to be serviceable. The probability of an under strata of coal being suggested, a shaft was dug to a great depth to ascertain the fact; nothing, however, was discovered worthy of observation but a bed of cockle shells, about twelve feet beneath the surface, one foot in thickness. The shells were firmly concreted with sand.

In digging for gravel upon Mortimer Heath, many bones of elks and moose deer have been found.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Berkshire is divided into twenty hundreds ; which contain twelve market towns, 148 parishes, 67 vicarages, and about 670 villages and hamlets. This county is in the diocese of Salisbury, in the Oxford Circuit. It sends nine members to parliament, viz. two for the shire, two for Reading, two for Wallingford, two for New Windsor, and one for Abingdon.

Berkshire is an Archdeaconry, comprising four Deaneries : Abingdon, Newbury, Reading, and Wallingford.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF
BERKSHIRE.*Journey from Hungerford to Reading ; through
Newbury.*

The market town of Hungerford is situated in the hundred of Kentbury Eagle, on the banks of the river Kennet, and at the western extremity of the county next Wiltshire. It is upon the road to Bath, 64 miles from London. A large part of the parish is in the county of Wilts.

The parish of Hungerford comprises the several tithings of Hungerford, Eddington, Newton, Charman Street and Sandon Fee. The three first, with part of Sandon Fee are in Berkshire.

Hungerford, appears to have been anciently called *Ingleford Charman Street*, which Mr. Gough derives from the circumstance of there having been a ford here of the Angles over *Herman Street*, a Roman road that crossed this town, in which there is still a street called Charman Street.

The town is ancient, and contains many well-built houses ; near the centre of the principal street is the Market House and Shambles, over which is a room for transacting the town business. A curious piece of antiquity is preserved in this room, denominated the Hungerford Horn, holding about a quart, which
was

was given as a charter to the town by John of Gaunt ; another, more modern, is also kept in the Town-Hall, which has upon it the following inscription :

JOHN A GAUN DID GIUE AND GRANT THE REALL
OF FISHING TO HUNGERFORD TOWNE FROM
ELDREN STUB TO IRISH STIL EXCEPTING SOM
SEVERAL MIL POUND.

JEHOSPAT LUCAS WAS CUNSTABLE.

The right of fishing granted by the above charter does not at present extend more than seven miles. The horn is made of brass, and is now blown annually on Hock Tuesday to assemble the inhabitants to chuse the constable, in whom is vested the municipal government of the town. This officer is also coroner, clerk of the market, and lord of the manor for the time being. He is assisted in the execution of his office, by twelve feoffees and burgesses, a portreeve, a steward, town-clerk, and some inferior officers.

The Church is an ancient structure, built at different times, situated at the end of the pleasant avenue of lime trees, in the western quarter of the town.-- Among the monumental inscriptions in this church there is a curious one to the memory of Robert de Hungerforde in Norman French. The following is a translation : " Whoever shall pray for Master Robert de Hungerforde, he shall have whilst he lives and for his soul after his death 550 days of pardon, granted by fourteen bishops whilst he (Robert de Hungerforde) was living. Wherefore, in the name of charity, say paternosters and ave-marias. Obit. 28 Edward III. A. D. 1354."

Sir Thomas de Hungerford, the nephew of the above person, was the first speaker of the house of Commons in the 51st. year of Edward III. His son *Walter* is the person with whom Mr. Camden begins his account of the family. He appropriated the
manor

manor and advowson of Cricklade to the dean and chapter of Salisbury, "to keep the tall spire steeple of that church in repair," and was buried in the nave of that cathedral, under what was the mayor's pew, removed some years since, with the bones which it covered, to the south side of the choir.

On the walk leading to the church is the free Grammar-School, founded and endowed by the Rev. Dr. Sheef, in 1636, who gave the ground and house. Mrs. Cummins, a widow, and Mr Hamblin, endowed the school with 17l. per annum, for four boys and three girls, and also towards providing a grammar master. Edward Capps (commonly known by the name of Trusty) an ancient servant of the family of Hungerford, left 50l. for the building of a new school room, and 4l. per annum as an addition to the master's salary from Chantry Mead, given by the above Mr. Hamblin. The church croft was also given for the use of the boys.

There are no manufactures of any consequence at Hungerford: the principal business of the place arising from its thoroughfare situation. The navigable canal from Newbury passing through this town, Ramsbury, Marlborough, and so on to Bath and Bristol, promises to encrease its general trade. An attempt was made some years ago to employ the parish poor in the workhouse, in weaving coarse woollen stuffs and a loom was put up at a great expence; but whether owing to bad management or otherwise this truly laudable undertaking fell to the ground.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801 the number of inhabitants of Hungerford amounted to 1987.

The occupiers of houses in Hungerford have a right of common on Hungerford down, adjoining the town, according to the amount of their rental.

The manor of Hungerford was anciently the property

perty of Robert Fitzparnell Earl of Leicester. In 1297 it was granted by Edward I. to Edmund Earl of Lancaster, from whom it descended to John of Gaunt. His son Henry, whilst Duke of Lancaster, granted the manor to Sir Walter Hungerford, who died seised of it in 1448. In the reign of Edward VI. being again in the crown, it was granted to the Duke of Somerset, after whose attainder it was granted, with all the appurtenances, the park excepted, to the townsmen of Hungerford.

Hungerford Park, situated at the extremity of the above mentioned down, was anciently the residence of the Barons de Hungerford, but at present the seat of John Willis, Esq. The house was built by Mr. Dalbiac, the former possessor, upon the site of the ancient mansion which is said to have been built by Queen Elizabeth, and given by her to the Earl of Essex. The lands surrounding the house are chiefly cultivated, and the pleasure grounds have a neat and agreeable appearance. The south and west sides are occupied by fine woods.

About two miles and a half south east from Hungerford, on the right of our road, is the village of Avington, remarkable for its ancient church, which exhibits a curious specimen of Saxon architecture. This building remains nearly in its original state; within the walls it measures 75 feet by 14 feet and a half. The nave is separated from the chancel by an arch richly ornamented with a zig-zag moulding and a great variety of grotesque heads, springing from two enriched piers. The arch is formed of the segments of two circles, having different centres. This church has a very singular font of rude workmanship; it is surrounded with grotesque figures executed in bas relief.

Sir Francis Burdet, Bart. is lord of the manor and patron of the rectory.

About half a mile further is the village of *Kentbury*, which derives its name from the river Kennet, upon which

which it is situated. This was formerly a market-town, and gives name to the hundred in which it is situated.

About a mile before we reach *Speen*, on the right of our road, is *Benham House*, the seat of the Marquess of Anspach, formerly the property of the late Lord Craven. The entrance to the park from the high road is by a gate, with a handsome lodge on each side. The grounds are well wooded, and from many situations command extensive and beautiful views.—The house is a regular building of the Ionic order, built of freestone. It stands upon a gentle eminence rising from a sheet of water, which flows before the mansion.

Hampstead Marshall Park is seen from these grounds, and forms, with its woody accompaniments, a very fine prospect. Hampstead Marshall, of which there are now no remains, was once the magnificent seat of the Craven family.

Speen is a small village situated about a mile north-west of Newbury. It is a place of great antiquity and supposed to have been the Roman *Spinae*. It had formerly a market on Mondays, which was granted in 1218 to William Marshall Earl of Pembroke.

The Church contains some ancient monuments, and near it is a well called our Lady's Well, where there is a distinct and clear echo.

The Roman station is said to have been in Speen field, between the village and Speenham-land, which running from this village connects it with the town of Newbury.

Speenham-land, a tithing of the parish of Speen, is upon our road contiguous to Newbury, and appears to be part of its suburbs. There is an alms-house here for two poor widows, founded by Mrs. Anne Watts, in the year 1664.

NEWBURY.

Is a large market-town, in the hundred of Fair-cross,

cross, situated on the banks of the Kennet, which crosses the town near the centre. The principal streets are spacious and well paved. The houses mostly built of brick

The ancient name of this town was *Newbir*, which it most probably obtained in reference to the old town of Speen (the Roman *Spina*) from the ruins of which it rose ; it certainly is a place of considerable antiquity, having been a town of some consequence at the time of taking the Norman survey. In the thirtieth year of Edward I. it returned two members to parliament ; and in the eleventh of Edward III. it was represented by three persons in a great council held on account of trade at Westminster. There was formerly a great quantity of broad cloath made here ; and in the reign of Henry VIII. the famous John Winscombe flourished here, commonly called Jack of Newbury ; he was one of the greatest clothiers that had ever flourished in England, keeping one hundred looms in his house. In the expedition to Flodden field against the Scots, he marched with one hundred of his men, all armed and cloathed at his own expence. This celebrated person died in the year 1519, and lies buried in Newbury Church, by the name of John Smallwode, alias Wynchcombe.

Newbury is a market by prescription. The market which is on Thursday, is principally for corn of which great quantities are brought for sale. The clothing trade has long left the town for the more western parts of the kingdom, and at present nothing but serge is manufactured here ; the general trade of the place is however very great, in consequence of the ready communication it has with London and Bristol, by means of the various navigable canals, which have been completed within the last twenty years. According to the returns of the population act in 1801, this town then contained 4275 inhabitants, exclusive of the adjoining tithing of Speenham-land.

Newbury

Newbury was incorporated in 1586 by Queen Elizabeth. The corporation consists of a mayor, high steward, recorder, six aldermen, and 24 common burgesses.

The Church is a handsome structure, supposed to have been built in the reign of Henry VIII. That part of it westward of the pulpit was raised together with the tower, at the expence of the before mentioned John Winchcombe; a brass plate with the effigies of this gentleman, which was formerly placed over his tomb, is now fixed against the east wall of the north aisle, it contains also the following inscription :

“Of your Charity pray for the
Soule of John Swalwood, alias
Winchom and Alice his wife
Which John died the 15th. day of
February An. Dom. 1519.”

The Town-Hall is a handsome building, over the market place, near the bridge which crosses the Kennet. Upon the rebuilding of this bridge a leaden seal of Pope Boniface, the ninth, was found, together with a pix, some knives of a singular make, some spurs, and a few English coins from Henry I. to William the third.

The number of Almshouses in this town, are very great, not less than sixty. One of these, called St. Bartholomew's Hospital, consists of fourteen dwelling houses, and is said to have been endowed by King John. The original endowment has been encreased by various subsequent benefactions. It was formerly under the superintendance of a master, warden; or prior, by the charter of Queen Elizabeth, the government was vested in the corporation. The pensioners who inhabit the houses, six men, and six women, are allowed 3s. 6d. a week each, besides which they have coats and gowns once in two years; 13s. 4d. on St. Thomas's day and 5s. each, arising from the tolls of the fair,

held in an adjoining meadow on St. Bartholomew's day. Each person has also yearly a load of peat, and another of faggots, for fuel.

Opposite to St. Bartholomew's Hospital there are twelve almshouses, erected in 1670, and endowed by Philip Jemmet, Esq. for six poor men and six women inhabitants, born in the town of Newbury; each person was allowed one shilling per week in 1670, which has been encreased, at different times, to three shillings and sixpence. They are also allowed one load of wood and one of peat in the year, and gowns and coats as the pensioners of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. There are twelve gardens belonging to these Almshouses.

In Cheap Street there are twelve Almshouses, endowed by John Kimber, Esq. a malster of the town, who died in 1793. Six poor men and the same number of women are maintained in these houses, upon an allowance of 5s. a week and firing each, and clothes every other year.

The twelve Church Almshouses, near the church, are for the maintenance of six poor men and six women parishioners of Newbury, nominated by the corporation.

Besides the above there are two Almshouses for poor weavers, founded by Thomas Pearce, 1671; with two others for poor men united under the direction of the protestant dissenters; an Almshouse for three poor widows; founded by Thomas Hunt in 1729. Three Almshouses for poor weavers, founded by Benjamin Robinson, in 1754, and an Almshouse in St. Mary's Hill, founded about the year 1656, by an unknown benefactor, for six old maids, endowed with an allowance of 2s. 6d. per week each, which has been encreased by Mr. Kimber's benefaction to 3s. 6d.

The sum of 40,000l. was bequeathed to the town by Mr. John Kendrick, of Reading, who died in 1624, to be laid out in the purchase of a house and garden,

garden for the employment of the poor in the clothing manufactory, and providing them with necessary materials. The original intention of the testator appears to have been defeated; at present an income of 160*l.* per annum, the produce of the legacy is lent by the corporation, without interest, in sums of fifty pounds to weavers for three years.

Adjoining to the church is a Charity School for the education of forty-four boys.

During the Civil War between King Charles and his parliament, Newbury, and its immediate neighbourhood, became the scene of two obstinate battles, fought in two succeeding years. The first on a common called the Waste, in the year 1643, on the 18th of September, the second in the fields between Newbury, Speen and Shaw, on the 27th October, in the year 1644: the king commanding his army on both days in person; the army of the parliament commanded by the Earl of Essex. The battle commenced in the morning, and continued the whole day with such doubtful success that each party claimed the victory; for although the earl left the royal army in possession of the field of battle, yet he effected his purpose of marching with his own army to London.

In this battle the king sustained an irreparable loss in the deaths of many of his most distinguished officers: the Earl of Sunderland, the Earl Caernaven, and Lord Viscount Falkland, were among the number of the slain.

In the succeeding year the king having entered Newbury, for the purpose of relieving Donnington Castle, was waiting for the return of the Earl of Northampton from Banbury, when the united parliament armies, under the Earl of Essex, Sir William Waller, and the Earl of Manchester, further strengthened by the trained bands from London, determined to attack the royal army. It was how-
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ever, two days before the general battle was fought ; which, although the king's force was so inferior, was attended with various success, till at length the arrival of night put an end to the sanguinary conflict. Each party again claimed the victory, but the parliamentary army were left in possession of the field, from which they marched into Newbury, which they fortified and resolved to keep. The king retreated to Oxford, where being joined by the Earl of Northampton, he returned to Newbury, retook his cannon, relieved Donnington Castle, and supplied it with provisions without interruption from the parliamentary army, who remained in their quarters at Newbury.

Donnington Castle is situated at a short distance northward from the village of Speens, raising its lofty head above the remains of the venerable oaks which once surrounded it. The time of its erection is uncertain ; it is said to have been built by Sir Richard Abberbury, who was guardian to King Richard II. during his minority, and was expelled from court by the discontented lords in 1388, for his attachment to that monarch. It was afterwards in the possession of a son of Geoffry Chaucer, the father of English poetry.

This son, Thomas Chaucer, was sheriff of the county in the 2nd of Henry IV. his daughter and heiress married William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, who made Donnington Castle his occasional residence, and considerably enlarged the buildings. Donnington afterwards became vested in the crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Charles Brandon, created by him Duke of Suffolk.

During the Civil Wars it was garrisoned by Charles I. and the government entrusted to Colonel Boys, being a post of great importance, commanding the high road leading from the west to London, and that from Oxford to Newbury. It was twice besieged, first on the 31st July 1644, by Lieutenant General

General Middleton, at the head of three thousand men, who was repulsed with the loss of one colonel, eight captains, one serjeant-major, and many inferior officers and soldiers. It was again besieged on the 27th of September in the same year, by Colonel Horton, who raising a battery against it, at the foot of a hill near Newbury, fired upwards of a thousand shot, by which he demolished three of the towers, and a part of the wall. During this attack, the governor, in a sally, beat the enemy out of their trenches, killed a lieutenant colonel, the chief engineer, and many of the private men. At length, after a siege of nineteen days, the place was relieved by the king, who at Newbury rewarded the governor with the honor of knighthood. After the second battle of Newbury the king, retiring towards Oxford in the night, left his heavy baggage, amunition, and artillery, under the castle walls; upon which the place was summoned by the parliamentary generals, who threatened that if it were not surrendered they would not leave one stone upon another. To this Sir John Boys returned no other answer than that he was not bound to repair it; but, however, he would, by God's help, keep the ground afterwards. The king, however, returned in a few days, from Oxford, as we have above related, revictualled it without opposition, and slept the same night in the castle, surrounded by his army. After the Civil War was over, Mr. Packer, the proprietor, pulled down the ruinous parts of the building, and with the materials erected the house standing under it.

A gateway and two round towers are all that remain at present of the castle, which Camden describes to have been, in his time, "a small but very neat place, seated on the brow of a woody hill, having a fine prospect, and lighted by windows on every side."

The manor of Donnington is now held under
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the king, by William Lowndes, Esq. as parcel of the honor of Wallingford.

At the foot of Donnington Hill, on the north side of the Kennet, is a handsome modern house, called the GROVE, built in the gothic style, by the late James Petit Andrews, Esq. it was purchased of him by the late W. Brummel, Esq. who considerably improved the place. The situation is on a rising ground, backed by a hill, crowned with wood, out of which rises Donnington Castle. A lawn spreads round the house, and falls towards a very fine piece of water : the Lambourne stream enlarged into a river ; which takes a winding course, nearly a mile long, and of a considerable breadth. There are three or four islands in it ; one of which is thickly planted, and affords shelter to many swans and wild fowls, which frequent the water, at the same time they add to the beauty of the place. Over the river the country consists of corn fields, which rise agreeably. The lawn is very neat, the trees and plantations beautifully disposed, and the manner in which the water terminates at each end, finishes the scene in a pleasing manner. There is a winding gravel walk, through both the groves, on the banks of the river, which open to several recluse and pleasing scenes. On one spot is a pretty rustic gothic temple, built of flint near a cascade, which the river forms by falling over a natural ridge of stones. The whole place is laid out with great taste. The house is a good one, the staircase of peculiar construction, but agreeable. The library is a large, handsome, and well proportioned room ; there is a good collection of pictures, by some of the best masters, at this house.

The Hospital at Donnington, founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, or as Leland says, by William De la Pole, was restored by Charles Howard Earl of Nottingham, in the time of James I. and still subsists for a master and twelve poor men. This hospital appears

appears to have been the same foundation with the priory of Trinitarians, also said to have been founded by Sir Richard Abberbury.

About a mile east from Donnington Castle is SHAW HOUSE, a large brick edifice, celebrated for having been the head-quarters of King Charles, at the time of the last battle of Newbury. A hole in the wainscot in one of the rooms is shewn as having been made by a bullet fired at the king, and which narrowly missed: the wainscot has been carefully preserved in memory of the circumstance.

This house was built in the year 1581, by an opulent clothier of Newbury, named Doleman, who thereby very much excited the envy of his neighbours, as appears from the sarcastic humour of the following distich made on this occasion.

“ Lord have mercy upon us, miserable sinners;
Thomas Doleman has built a new house,
And has turned away all his spinners.”

Over the portico is still to be seen the following inscription in the style of the times: “ *Edentulus Vescentium Dentibus incidet et oculo Cuprearum Tulpa Contemnit.*” Mr. Doleman was sheriff of this county in 1588.

Sir Joseph Andrews, Bart. is the present owner of this estate, and lord of the manor of Shaw.

Three miles north-west from Newbury is ENBOURNE. The manors of East and West Enbourne had formerly a peculiar custom. On the death of a copyhold tenant, the widow is to have her free bench in all his copyhold lands, *dum sola et casta fuerit*; but if she commit incontinency she forfeited her widow's estate; nor could they be restored unless she mounted a black ram, and came into the next court held for the manor, riding backwards, and repeating a quaint formula of words.

At SANDLEFORD, or NEW TOWN, two miles south of Newbury, a priory, dedicated to St. Austin was

was founded by Geoffry Earl of Perche before 1205, and deserted in the year 1480, when it was annexed by Edward IV. to the collegiate church of Windsor.

The course of parts of the two Roman roads described in the 13th Iter of Antoninus, and the 12th of Richard, may be easily discovered in various parts of this neighbourhood; one of them led from Durocornovium, and the other from Aqua Solis (Bath) appear to have met as Spinæ in the parish of Speen.

About three miles from Newbury we pass through *Thatcham*, now a small village, but formerly a market town, and it is described as an ancient borough in Domesday and other records, but it does not appear that it ever sent representatives to parliament. The market has been long discontinued. It still has two annual fairs, on the days mentioned in our list.

There is a good Charity School in this village, founded by Lady Frances Winchcomb, in the year 1707, who endowed in with 53l. per annum. The income at present amounts to 200l. per annum, with which 40 boys, twenty of whom are of the parish of Bucklebury, are clothed and educated, and six of them annually apprenticed with a premium of 10l. each. The school-house was a decayed chapel, purchased by Lady Winchcombe for the purpose.

Near the village was **DUNSTAN HOUSE**, the ancient seat of the Waring, and Crofts, described by Rocque in 1761 as one of the most magnificent mansions in the county. It was pulled down by the purchasers of it, at Sir John Croft's sale, for the sake of the materials.

In the parish church are several ancient monuments.

The parish of Thatcham is the most extensive of any in the county, excepting Lambourne, containing,

ing, according to Rocque's survey, 11,491 acres; it extends to the town of Newbury, and includes some part of its suburbs. It comprises the hamlets of Midgham, Greenham, Crokenham, Chamberhouse, Henwick, Coldash and Coldthorpe.

At Greenham there was anciently a preceptory of the knights-hospitallers, to whom the manor belonged in the reign of Henry II. At Greenham Mills, about three miles south from Thatcham, is a large and flourishing blanket manufactory.

At BRIMPTON, about three miles south-east from Thatcham, the knights-templars are said to have had a preceptory. At the time of the Norman survey there were two churches in this parish. About a mile from the present church, there are the remains of an ancient ecclesiastical building adjoining a farm house.

About three miles to the right of our road, six miles from Thatcham, is Aldermaston House, the seat of Mr. Congreve, upon the borders of the county next Hampshire. This house was almost entirely rebuilt by Sir Humphry Forster in 1636. The windows in the hall, and some other rooms, have a great quantity of stained glass, representing the arms of the families of Achard, De la Mare, and Forster. The hall is lofty, and surrounded by a spacious gallery. The house has been lately fitted up, and all the ornaments restored, as they were in 1636. There are three annual fairs at Aldermaston, on the days mentioned in our lists. The lordship belongs to Mr. Congreve.

At WOOLHAMTON, in the hundred of Theal, begin the peat-pits, which extend by the side of the Kennet to Newbury. Woolhamton is now the property and residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Crewe, widow of John Crewe, Esq. who purchased the manor of Lord Fingal, about twenty years since.

About two miles to the left of our road, nine miles from Thatcham, is ENGLEFIELD, the site of a well-

known battle, fought between the Danes and the Saxons in 871. The village is pleasantly situated in a rich valley, which extends from Pangbourn westward nearly as far as Newbury.

In the parish Church there are several monuments of the Englefield family, and an interesting one to the memory of the second and last Marquis of Winchester, who so nobly defended Basing House for Charles I. On this monument are the following lines, written by Dryden:

“ He who in impious times untainted stood,
And midst rebellion durst be great and good ;
Whose arms asserted, and whose sufferings more
Confirmed the cause for which he fought before ;
Rests here, rewarded by some heavenly Prince
For what his earthly could not recompense ;
Pray, reader, that such times no more appear,
Or if they happen learn true honour here.
Ask of thy ages faith and loyalty,
Which to preserve them Heaven conferr’d on thee :
Few subjects could a king like thine deserve,
And fewer such a king so well could serve :
Blest king ! blest subject ! whose exalted state
By sufferings rose, and gave the law to fate :
Such souls are rare, but mighty patterns given
To earth, were meant for ornaments to heaven.”

By JOHN DRYDEN, Poet Laureat.

The seat of Richard Benyon, Esq. in this village formerly belonged to the Paulet family. The house is agreeably situated under a verdant hill, which shelters it from the north-east winds ; a handsome lawn is in front, and a fine sheet of water, interspersed with several small islands, inhabited by numerous wild fowl.

The village of THEALE, through which we next pass, on the Bath road, is a tithing within this parish, and gives name to an adjoining hundred : it had formerly a chapel of ease.

The rectory of TYLEHURST, a parish adjoining Englefield,

Englefield, about a mile and a half west from Reading, is said to be the largest in Berkshire. In the church there is a very costly monument to the memory of Sir Peter Vaulone, a rich merchant, who died in 1627, and his lady. In this parish is a large unproductive heath, which might be very advantageously converted into tillage.

William Lloyd, a learned and pious bishop of the last and present century, was born at Tylehurst, on the 18th of August, 1627. He was instructed in the languages by his father, and made so rapid a progress in his studies, that having acquired at eleven years of age, a competent knowledge of the Latin, Hebrew, and Greek, he was entered, 1638, a student of Oriel College, Oxford, where he soon after took up his degrees.

Being in sentiment averse to innovations in religion, he could not comply with the changes that took place during the Usurpation, but became a tutor to the children of a nobleman.

In 1660 he was sworn a chaplain in ordinary to the king, and appointed prebendary of Ripon. In 1672 the king promoted him to the deanery of Bangor, and soon after to the valuable living of St. Martin's in the Fields. In 1680 he was appointed bishop of St. Asaph, about which time he wrote a learned essay on the ancient church government in this island, which brought him into a controversy with Sir George M'Kenzie, the learned Scotch lawyer.

When King James II. published the declaration for liberty of conscience, Dr. Lloyd was one of the seven bishops who refused to concur with that measure, as contrary to the express letter of the statute. They presented a petition to the king, praying to be excused, but the infatuated prince, who looked upon himself as above law, ordered the seven bishops to be committed to the Tower. At that time there was no parliament, which obliged

them to move the court of king's-bench for a writ of habeas corpus. After many learned arguments before the lord chief justice Wright, and the other judges, the court granted the writ, and the same day it was served upon the lieutenant of the Tower. On the return of the writ, many learned arguments were used by the council on both sides concerning the power of the court, and privilege of the bishops, the king's official proclamation, and the nature of a libel.

When the pleadings were over, the court proceeded to give judgment, which to their everlasting infamy, was "That to petition the king to redress grievances was finding fault with his government, and finding fault with the government was, in its own nature, a libel."

But the character of those judges is best known from what was said by that great ornament of the law, Lord Camden, when he gave judgment upon the imprisonment of Mr. Wilkes. "Wright and Holloway (says his lordship) it is feared were put into office to be ready to serve the court, Alliboyne was a profest papist, and Powel, the only honest man among them, did not say any thing." Judgment being given, the attorney-general filed an information against the bishops, upon which they were tried and honourably acquitted.

On the accession of King William he was appointed almoner, and in 1692, translated to the see of Litchfield and Coventry. In 1699, he succeeded his learned friend Dr. Stillingfleet in the see of Worcester, which he enjoyed till 1717, when he died at Hartlebury-Castle, in the ninety first year of his age.

He was a very learned person both in the classics and British antiquities, as appears from his writings; and Burnet, who was well acquainted with him, says, that he spent above twenty years in studying the Revelations.

READING.

In Leland's Itinerary, we find the following description of this town :

"There is no manner of token that ever the town of Reading was waulid, yet it is a very auncient town, and at this time the best toun of all Berkshire. There was a castel in the Saxon time in this toun, and the name of Castle-street yet remains, lying from east to west to pass to Newbury ; but I could not perceive or clearly learn where it stood. But by all likelihood at the west end of Castle-street, and as some think about the place of execution. It is very likely that a piece of the abbey was built of the ruins of it : peradventure it stood where the abbey was. St. Edward Martyr's mother-in-law for penance built as I have read a monastery of nuns in Reding. Ther is a constant fame that this nunnery was wher St. Mary's paroch church is now. King Henry I. making an abbey of black monks here suppress this house as I heard, giving the lands thereof to his abbey. On the north side of the Castle Street was a fair house of Grey friars. In the town are three paroch churches ; St. Jiles on this side the river, St. Mary's in the middle the oldest, and St. Lawrence beyond Kennet. West north-west of St. Lawrence's church was an Alms-house of poor sisters, probably founded by some of the abbots. Abbot Thorn suppress it Henry VII. and gave the lands to the use of the almoner of his abbey ; but Henry VII. coming hither and asking what old house that was, willed him to convert it and its land *in pius usus*, and at the abbot's desire made it a grammar school. The river Kennet runs through the town in two arms, one called about the quarters of the town, the *halowid brooke*. Above the town about the *Bere* the abbot had a fair manor place of brick."

Reading is an ancient and populous borough
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and market town, pleasantly situated on the river Kennet which joins the Thames, a little below the town. Camden supposes the name to be derived from the Saxon word *Rhea*, river, or the British *Redin*, fern ; which grew here in great plenty.

The town consists of three very considerable parishes, viz. St. Mary's, St. Laurence's, and St. Giles, separately maintaining their own poor. The principal streets are extensive, well paved, and lighted ; and the buildings in general remarkably handsome. According to the returns under the population act, in 1801, there were then 1755 houses and 9770 inhabitants.

The municipal government of the town is vested by the charter of Charles II. in a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and as many burgesses, from whom the vacancies in the list of aldermen are supplied. The corporation, who possess the ancient manor and rights attached to it, hold four quarterly sessions for the trial of felonies, and a court every Wednesday for the consideration of smaller offences against the peace.

Reading sends two members to parliament, which it has done ever since the 23 Edward I. though we do not find any charter of incorporation older than Henry VII. The right of election is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, the mayor being the returning officer ; the number of voters is somewhat more than 600.

Reading has two markets weekly, held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The latter is chiefly for corn. A cattle market is also held every Monday morning, where there is a considerable shew of neat cattle, from the western parts of the county on their way to Smithfield. For the convenience of the inhabitants, and to prevent forestalling, the mayor regulates the market hours, which begin at eight in the summer and nine in the winter season.

The market on Wednesday is well supplied with
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all sorts of provisions, particularly poultry, butter, and eggs, and sea and Thames fish. There are four fairs held here on the days inserted in our list.

There are several manufactories in Reading which afford employment to a great number of its poorer inhabitants. Among them are to be mentioned an extensive gauze and ribbon manufactory, the sail-cloth and sacking manufactory, and the pin manufactory.

The river Kennet runs through the town, and in its passage forms several excellent wharfs. The river is navigable westward to Newbury, a distance of 17 miles, and the completion of the Kennet and Avon Canal opens a communication, by the junction of those rivers, from the Severn to the Thames. The principal articles sent from Reading by water-carriage are timber, hoops, bark, corn, wool, malt and flour. Upwards of 20,000 quarters of the latter commodity are annually sent from hence to the metropolis. The articles brought in return are grocery, iron, deals, &c. to a great amount.

Reading is a place of considerable antiquity, and its origin unknown, nor has it been determined whether at the time of the Roman invasion it was a British settlement, or whether it then became first inhabited. Dr. Salmon, indeed, has asserted, that Reading is the *Spinæ* of the itinerary, but has failed in the evidence adduced to support his opinion.

The earliest mention of this town, in history, is in the year 871, when it is described to be a fortified town, belonging to the Saxons, but then in the possession of the Danes, who had retreated hither after their unsuccessful battle at Englefield, with Earl Ethelwolf.

In 1006 the town was burnt by the Danes, and a convent of nuns, then existing under the government of an abbess, destroyed. The town, however, appears to have soon recovered from this calamity, and in the reign of King Stephen held out against the Empress Maud, which induced her son Henry II. to demolish

demolish the castle, which he did so effectually that there is not a single vestige of it now to be seen.

Leland imagined it might stand at the west end of the street now called Castle Street, perhaps only because it seems probable that a street built on, or near the site of the castle, should be so called. There are the traces of two bastions near the ruins of the abbey, but they are known by their figure to be modern; and were probably constructed during the Civil War in Charles I. time, and destroyed at the Revolution.

In 1121 Henry I. laid the foundation of a magnificent abbey on the site of that destroyed, which he completed in 1124. The charter of establishment recites that, "The abbeyes of Reading, Chelsey, and Leominster, having been destroyed for their sins, and their possessions fallen into the hands of the laity, the king with the advice of his prelates, &c. had built a new monastery at Reading, and endowed it with the monasteries of Reading, Chelsey, and Leominster, together with their appurtenances of woods, fields, pastures, &c. with exemption from all tolls, duties, customs, and contributions."

Besides these privileges the abbot and the monks were invested with the power of trying criminals, and entrusted generally with the conservation of the peace within the town and neighbourhood. In return for these extensive grants, their charter provided that the monks should hospitably entertain the poor and all travellers, which part of their duty was so well performed, that, according to William of Malmsbury, there was always more expended upon strangers than upon themselves.

Although this famous abbey was completed in four years, the church was either not consecrated till the reign of Henry II. or else that ceremony was a second time performed, in the year 1163 or 1164, by Thomas-a-Becket, archbishop of Canterbury; the king and many of the nobility being present.

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It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the blessed Virgin Mary, and St. John the Evangelist; but commonly called the Abbey of St. Mary, at Reading; probably from the extraordinary veneration paid in those days to the Holy Virgin. It was endowed for 200 monks of the Benedictine order. It was a mitred abbey, the abbot having the privilege of sitting in parliament.

Henry I. was so delighted with this establishment that he continued heaping favours upon it, until the time of his decease, when he left orders for his body to be interred in the chancel, which was accordingly complied with.

Adeliza, Henry's second queen, was likewise interred, as were also William, the eldest son of Henry II. and a great number of other persons of rank and distinction.

Henry II. confirmed all the grants of his predecessors.

Notwithstanding the obligation contained in their charter it appears that the necessities of the poor were not always attended to. Hugh, the eighth abbot, in his deed for the foundation of a new hospital observes, "that whereas King Henry had appointed all persons to be entertained there, yet he found that the same was performed in a decent manner towards the rich, but not according to the king's intention towards the poor, which miscarriage he, as the ward to that noble charity, was resolved to correct." He accordingly built an hospital without the abbey gate, that those persons who were not admitted to the upper house might be entertained there. By the above-mentioned deed he gave the church of St. Laurence to this hospital, for ever, for the maintenance of 13 poor persons, in diet, clothes, and other necessities, and allowed sufficient for the support of thirteen others out of the usual alms.

This abbey continued to flourish till the reign of Henry VIII. when Hugh Farringdon, the then abbot,

bot, refusing to deliver an account to the visitors of the revenues and treasures belonging to the foundation, was, with two of his monks named Rugg and Onion, attainted of high treason, and being condemned to death, were in the month of November, 1539, all three hung, drawn, and quartered, at Reading. This happened on the same day that the abbot of Glastonbury suffered the like sentence, for a similar provocation. Immediate possession being taken of the abbey, immense quantities of jewels, and other articles of great value were found, besides the revenues, which amounted to 1,938*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

The greatest part of this stately edifice, which appears to have occupied a space nearly half a mile in circumference, remained till the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles I. when the army of the parliament pulled down the upper part of the walls, considering it as a relic of Popish idolatry, however there are some ruins still remaining; from a view of which a tolerable idea may be formed of its original grandeur.

The walls are nearly eight feet thick, and faced with free-stone, but the interior part is composed of flints, cemented with mortar of a dry hard texture.

Towards the east end is a large room of a semi-circular form, having five narrow windows, and three doors. It is arched over, and seems to have supported a chapel, in which it is imagined mass was daily said for the souls of the great personages who are here interred.

The hospital for the poor knights at Windsor, was built, soon after the Dissolution, with the materials from the ruins. Queen Elizabeth in her charter grants the corporation liberty to take away 200 loads of fine stone from the abbey, and a considerable quantity was carried away by the late General Conway, for the erection of that singular bridge at Park Place,

Place, which is thrown across the high road leading from Henley to Wargrave.

Fuller, in his Church History, has the following anecdote of one of the prelates of this abbey, which he stiles a pleasant and true story, and which we shall relate in his own words, "As King Henry VIII. was hunting in Windsor Forest, he either casually lost, or more probably wilfully losing himself, struck down, about dinner time to the abbey of Reading, where disguising himself (much for delight, more for discovery unseen), he was invited to the abbot's table, and passed for one of the king's guard; a place to which the proportion of his person might properly entitle him. A sirloin of beef was set before him (so knighted, saith tradition, by this Henry), on which the king laid on lustily, not disgracing one of that place for whom he was mistaken. "Well fare thy heart (quoth the abbot), and here in a cup of sack I remember the health of his grace your master. I would give an hundred pounds on the condition I could feed so lustily on beef as you do. Alas! my weak and squeezie stomach will hardly digest the wing of a small rabbit or chicken." The king pleasantly pledged him, and heartily thanked him for his good cheer; after which he departed as undiscovered as he came thither. Some weeks after the abbot was sent for by a pursuivant, brought up to London, clapt in the tower, kept close prisoner, and fed, for a shorttime, with bread and water; yet not so empty his body of food as his mind was filled with fears, creating many suspicions to himself, when and how he had incurred the king's displeasure. At last a sirloin of beef was set before him, on which the abbot fed as the farmer of his grange, and verified the proverb that two hungry meals make the third a glutton. In springs King Henry, out of a private lobby, where he had placed himself, the invisible spectator of the abbot's behaviour. "My Lord, (quoth the king) presently deposit your hundred pounds

pounds in gold, or else no going hence all the daies of your life. I have been your physician to cure you of your squeezie stomach, and here, as I deserve, I demand my fee for the same." The abbot down with his dust, and, glad he had escaped so, returned to Reading, as somewhat lighter in purse, so much more merry in heart than when he came thence."

Near the abbey church there was an hospital for lepers, founded by Ausgerus or Aucherius, the second abbot, and dedicated to Mary Magdalen. There were also several other religious foundations in Reading, particularly a priory or house of grey-friars, which in 1560, was converted into an hospital or work-house, and afterwards, in 1613, into a house of correction. This part was the south transept of the church of the grey-friars: the walls of which are still entire.

The Grammar School, which Leland mentions to have been founded out of the produce of the estates of a suppressed Almshouse of Poor Sisters, on the north-west of Saint Lawrence's Church, is situated on the east side of the Forbury, and is now in great reputation under the care of the Rev. Dr. Valpy. The vice chancellor of Oxford, the president of St. John's college, and the warden of All Souls, hold a triennial visitation, and the senior scholars annually make public speeches in the town-hall. Sir Thomas White, who was born at Reading, founded at St. John's College, two scholarships for natives of Reading educated at this school.

Among the public buildings of the town the first to be noticed are the three parish churches, which although very respectable structures have nothing sufficiently remarkable, either in their architecture or antiquity, to require a very particular description.

St. Lawrence's Church appears to have been rebuilt in 1434. In 1517 it possessed some curious relics,

lies, among which was, “ a gridiron of silver, gilt, with a bone of St. Lawrence thereon, weighing three quarters of an ounce, the gift of Thomas Lynd, Esq.” In this church lies interred John Blagrove, the celebrated mathematician; his monument has his effigies, a half length, under an arch, habited in a cloak and ruff, holding a globe in one hand, and a quadrant in the other, underneath is the following inscription :

“ Johannes Blagrovus,
Totus Mathematicus,
Cum Matre Sepultus.”

There are also some indifferent English verses. The church contains no other monument worthy of notice.

The chapel of St. Edmund, in this parish, near the west end of Friar Street, was built in 1204, by Lawrence Burgess, bailiff of Reading, by permission of the abbot, on condition of his giving an endowment for its support; the founder built an hermitage near it, in which he died. The chapel has long since been pulled down.

St. Mary's Church was rebuilt about the year 1551, of materials purchased for the purpose from the abbey church, which was then pulled down. The only monument worthy of notice in this church is that of William Kenrick, or Kendrick, said to be descended from the Saxon kings.

St. Giles's Church contains little that is remarkable, the spire which is 70 feet high, is made of wood, covered with copper, and was erected in 1790, at the expence of 573*l.* 19*s.*

In the year 1560, the upper part of the ancient hospital of St. John, was converted into a Town-hall. In 1672 it was repaired at the expence of John Blagrove, Esq. In 1785 it was rebuilt, and is now a very handsome room, 108 feet in length, 32 in width, and 24 in height. Adjoining to it is a spacious

council-chamber, in which are, among others, the portraits of Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John's College, Oxford, Archbishop Laud, and Mr. John Kendrick, all natives of Reading, and great benefactors to the town, as we shall hereafter mention. Here are also portraits of Richard Aldworth, Esq. ancestor of Lord Braybrooke, who was founder of the blue-coat school, and Sir Thomas Rich, Bart. a benefactor to that charity.

The present County Gaol was erected about the year 1793, on the site of some of the old abbey buildings. It is a handsome structure, 163 feet in front and 137 feet in depth. It contains a commodious house for the keeper, a room for the reception of the magistrates, a neat chapel, and an infirmary. The male and female prisoners are confined in separate wings of the building, each of them divided into several courts, day rooms for labour, and other apartments. There are a few cells for the refractory, and some for the purpose of solitary confinement.

The income arising from the various benefactions, legacies, &c. bequeathed or given to this town for charitable purposes amounts to upwards of 3000*l.* annually; the following is a brief account of the principal charities, and the mode of their application.

Sir Thomas White, a native of this town, and lord mayor of London, in the year 1553, placed Reading the fourth in his list of 24 cities and towns which were to receive 104*l.* in yearly rotation for ever from lands vested in the corporation of Bristol. This sum, as often as it is paid, is to be lent to four necessitous young men, clothiers, 25*l.* to each, for ten years, without interest.

In 1658 Mr. Richard Aldworth, bequeathed 4000*l.* to found a blue-coat school, and maintain a master, lecturer, and 20 boys. This charity has been increased by various subsequent donations,
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and the school is now a very respectable establishment, the funds being sufficient to support and educate from 30 to 43 children.

Mr. John Hall, of London, apothecary, by will, in December 1696, provided a house for a school-master. He has five pounds a year, a cloak once in two years about two pounds value, eighteen pounds a year, and one pound a year for shoes and stockings, to be paid him, to enable him to teach three boys, one out of each parish, of the age of fourteen, or fifteen years to read, write, and cast accounts, and to maintain them ; and he also gave six pounds, and a bible, to each boy to put him out apprentice. The school-house is situated in Chain-lane. The parents of these children must have been parishioners of one of the parishes at the time of their birth, and they are elected into it by the mayor and aldermen. The same benefactor also gave five messuages adjoining to the school, for five poor single persons, of good reputation, of the town of Reading ; and endowed them with eighteen-pence a week, twelve shillings a year for fuel, and once in two years a cloth gown.

In the year 1782 the three vicars of Reading instituted a Charity-school for six girls, now augmented to twelve, supported by public contributions. On St. Thomas's day, when Mr. West's charity-sermon is alternately preached in three parish churches, an annual collection is made at the church doors, in aid of this institution by the trustees.

John West, Esq. by will, made an endowment for the maintenance and education of three boys, between the ages of seven and eleven years, in the charity-school of Christchurch, London, to be elected by the minister, church-wardens, and payers to the poor-rates, out of each parish alternately on every vacancy ; with each of whom an apprentice-fee of 20 pounds is given by the donor, and the children are apprenticed out to such masters and trades as their parents approve. The same donor,

and Frances his wife, gave to the cloth-workers company, houses and grounds, let at 39*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year, in trust, to pay the rents and profits thereof to blind men and women, five pounds a year each for life. The poor blind in Newbury and Reading to be preferred before others.

Archbishop Laud, a native of this borough, by deed in his life-time, gave 120*l.* a year for ever, to be employed two years successively in apprenticing ten boys born in Reading, one belonging to the parish of Bray, and one belonging to the parish of Wokingham, Berks; and every third year to be divided into 20*l.* shares, and given to five such maid-servants born in Reading, with one other maid-servant born in the parish of Bray or Wokingham, alternately, who have respectively lived three years in one service, in Reading, Bray, or Wokingham, as the mayor and aldermen shall direct, to promote them in marriage.

Mr. John Allen, late of Harfield, in the county of Middlesex, who was educated in the blue-coat charity-school in this borough, gave, by will, the sum of 1000*l.* to be laid out in the purchase of lands, nine tenths of the clear yearly value of which for the putting out three boys, not under 15 years, one out of each parish in the town of Reading, apprentices in London, every year, by the ministers of the three parishes, and the other tenth to be equally divided between the said three ministers. He likewise gave ten pounds to be distributed by the church-wardens to the poor of the parish of St. Mary. His monument and rails, in St. Mary's church-yard, to be painted and repaired, as often as there shall be occasion, by the three ministers, out of the nine-tenths of the estates above-mentioned.

Mr. John Kendrick, by will, December 2^d, 1624, gave 50*l.* one third part of which he directed to be distributed to the poor of each parish separately, by the church-wardens and overseers at Christmas, yearly,

yearly, for ever, which is regularly done. He also gave 10l. yearly, issuing out of lands at Mattingly, and of a farm in North-street, in the parish of Tilehurst, Berks, purchased by the corporation in trust, towards the maintenance of morning prayers at St. Mary's Church. The same gentleman also gave by will to the town of Reading, two other very considerable gifts, one of 7500l. and the other of 500l. Out of the first gift the corporation purchased lands in North-street, in the parish of Tilehurst, and a tenement in Minster Street, in Reading, which cost 1900l. There was bought of Anthony Blgrave, Esq. a plot of ground adjoining to the said tenement, which cost 32l. and in building the new part and altering the old, to make it fit for carrying on the trade of cloathing, there was laid out the sum of 1846l. There was likewise laid out in shop-stuff 122l. and the remainder was, by the mayor and aldermen, lent to such persons as had the best interests with them, but upon slender securities. The people of the town, being apprehensive that there might be great losses accrue to the charity through negligence and partiality, petitioned the king, in council, to direct them what course to take to preserve that great charity. Upon which it was left to the archbishop of Canterbury, to give his opinion in what manner the said charity should be applied for the use and good of the poor of Reading, which was, that the money should be secured by the purchase of lands, and the profits and produce thereof to be employed in lending to young tradesmen, that could give good security for the repayment in a limited time, without interest ; to bind out poor fatherless and motherless boys to handicraft trades ; and to give to poor maids, that had lived with one master or dame a limited time, and behaved well in her place, and had no friends to give her any portion in marriage, the several sums specified in the de-

cree, which are limited, and not to exceed the sums therein mentioned.

This adjudication of the archbishop, was soon after exhibited into the court of Exchequer ; and in trinity term, in the 14th of King Charles I. anno 1639, a decree passed in that court that the sum of 3600l. left, being part of the sum of 7500l. of Mr. John Kendrick's first gift, should be laid out in lands, and the income and produce of the same to be employed to the uses abovementioned. By virtue of which decree, soon after there was bought with part of the said money, of Ralph Verney, Esq. and Mary his wife, a farm at Greenmer-hill, in South Stoke, and Goring, in the county of Oxon, which cost 1050l. There was also bought, with a farther part of the said money, another farm called Brazenhead, or Parr's Land, at Sulhamstead Abbots and Banisters, which cost 807l. 11s. 7d. bought of William Parr and son. With a farther part of the said money was purchased of Richard Knollys. Esq. certain lands called by the name of the Crown-fields, in Reading, which cost 1100l. All which said purchases cost 2957l. 11s. 7d. so that there remained to lay out in land, according to the decree, the sum of 642l. 8s. 5d. Out of this sum, eight several sums of 80l. each were lent out upon security for ten years gratis, without interest, and at the end of that time, pursuant to the decree, to be lent to other persons for the like time, and so to continue, from ten years to ten years, for ever. Yet, by the accounts of the said charity, the money was not received back and lent again in twenty years, and some a much longer time, and some of them quite lost : some of the aldermen themselves, though to their dishonour, formerly made use of the same ; some without giving any security, and others upon very slender ones ; so that this branch of Mr. Kendrick's charity is so much diminished, that one half, if not more, of the said eight sums of eighty pounds, are sunk

sunk and lost, to the great hurt of the trading people in Reading. The second gift, as before observed, was 500*l.* to be lent gratis, after his first nomination, to ten trading men, from three years to three years, they giving security for the repayment of 50*l.* each. But, for want of due care, both the time and conditions were altered, so that in time it came into the hands of Mr. Joseph or John Wigg, where it rested till his death; and then, about the year 1718 or 1719, was paid into the hands of a certain alderman, as chamberlain of the hall-revenues, where it did not belong, it being for a charitable use, he having acknowledged the same in one of his chamberlain's accounts: so that this part of Mr. Kendrick's charity is not employed for the benefit of those for whom it was intended, either by negligence or misapplication of the managers of the said charity, who, by a printed publication, were clearly proved debtors to this charity in the sum of 18,439*l.* 10*s.*

The building which was originally erected for a clothing manufactory, in pursuance of Mr. Kendrick's will, is now called the *Oracle*; and is at present occupied by sacking manufacturers, sail cloth, weavers, pin-makers, &c. who are allowed the use of the building gratis.

On Good Friday, in every year, three maid servants, who have lived in one service five years, are appointed by the corporation, who throw lots in the council-chamber for twenty nobles, the gift of Mr. John Blagrove, June 10, 1611. At the nomination of the mayor elect, on the last Monday in August in every year, three other maid-servants, appointed at last mentioned, also throw lots in the council-chamber for eight pounds, the gift of the late aldermen, Mr. John Deane and Mr. John Richards; and the sum of five pounds has of late years been given by Martin Annesley, Esq. brother to the member. And the late Awberry Flory, Esq. also gave by will
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the interest of 100*l.* for ever, to be added to Mr. Annesley's gift, and equally divided between the two unfortunate maids.

Sir Thomas Vatchell, Knt. in 1634, founded alms-houses for six poor men, and endowed them with forty pounds per annum for ever.—John Leche, otherwise John A'Larder, Esq. in 1477, founded five alms-houses for five poor men; and endowed them with twenty-pence a week, and three others adjoining for three poor women, with the same endowment: rebuilt by the corporation 1775.—John Webb, Esq. in 1633, founded four alms-houses, and endowed them with two shillings a week, which were rebuilt by the corporation in 1790. Mr. Richard Keys founded four alms-houses for four poor women, and endowed them with lands of 10*l.* a year.—There are several charity-houses in Hosiers-lane, and the persons enjoying them are elected by the minister of the parish of St. Mary's for the time being.

The celebrated William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, was the son of an eminent clothier of Reading, where he was born at an ancient house, now standing in Broad-Street, in the year 1583. He was first educated in the free-school here, from whence he was removed to St. John's College, Oxford, where he took his degrees, and was chosen one of the fellows of that society. He was also chosen university reader of grammar, in which profession he was greatly followed, being admired for his extensive knowledge of the learned languages.

Laud obtained several considerable preferments, but remained fellow of the college, till he was elected master in 1611. This election, however, was warmly contested, and the king (James I.) hearing of the dispute, sent for both parties to Titchbourn in Hampshire, where he examined the matter and gave his opinion in favour of Laud. He was soon after appointed one of the royal chaplains, and in 1616 promoted

promoted to the deanery of Gloucester. In 1621 he was advanced to the bishopric of St. David's, when he resigned his mastership of the college, and at the coronation of Charles I. officiated as Dean of Windsor.

We have hitherto considered Laud as a scholar and churchman, rising from one degree of preferment to another ; but from the period last mentioned of Charles's accession to the throne he was called forth to public action, both in church and state, which ended in the ruin of himself and his royal master.

In 1626 he was promoted to the see of Bath and Wells, made dean of the chapel royal, sworn of the privy council, and next year translated to the bishopric of London.

In proportion as he possessed the royal favour, he became the object of envy, both to the nobility and churchmen ; and Sir James Whitelock one of the judges, and a man of great experience, used to say, that " Laud was too full of fire, though a just and good man, and that his want of experience in state matters, and his too much zeal for the church ceremonies, if he proceeded in the way he was then in, would set the nation on fire !"

In 1633 he was appointed archbishop of Canterbury, and the same year accompanied the king to Scotland, where being offended with the simplicity of their worship, he projected the scheme of imposing on that church the English liturgy, which the people considered as little better than the mass book. His conduct in that affair, with his cruelty to those whom he prosecuted in the court of star-chamber, so alienated the affections of the people from the sovereign, that they found themselves under the necessity of taking up arms in the defence of their injured rights and privileges.

In 1640, when the long parliament met, he was accused by the Scotch commissioners as an incendiary,

diary, and next day the commons impeached him of high treason, which was carried up to the bar of the house of lords by Daniel Holles, son of the Earl of Clare, whereupon he was taken into custody of the usher of the black rod, and afterwards committed to the tower, where he remained above three years.

At first the parliament resolved to try him at common law, but it was considered as unsafe to trust a matter of such importance with a jury ; and therefore a bill of attainder was carried up from the commons to the lords, where it passed without much opposition, and a warrant was made out for his execution, on the 10th of January 1644. He was attended to the scaffold by Dr. Sterne, his chaplain, where after some time spent in devotion, his head was cut off at one blow, in the 72nd year of his age.

Were we bigoted high churchmen, we should represent Laud as a martyr ; were we rigid dissenters, we should consider him as a merciless inhuman persecutor. But without the least attachment to any party farther than is consistent with reason and truth, we shall not omit his virtues, while we consider his failings.

That he was a man of great learning is evident : not only from his learned answer to Fisher the jesuit, but also from his judicious collections of manuscripts, which he left to the university of Oxford. His assiduity in the discharge of his episcopal duty was equal to his abilities as a scholar ; and his piety in private as a christian appears from his diary, published after his death. But such is the contaminating nature of pride, especially in churchmen, and so infatuating is the love of power, that when trusted with a person unacquainted with the world, and destitute of prudence, it frequently carries him to such unwarrantable heights, as seldom fail to procure his destruction. Laud was brought up in all the unfeeling apathy of a collegiate

legiate life, and when called to act in a public character was utterly unacquainted with the world. He imbibed high notions of episcopal authority, and was so fondly attached to the exteriors of religion, that he forgot that saying of his divine master—"I will have mercy and not sacrifice." To this may be ascribed all those miseries, which his infatuated conduct brought upon the nation, by deluging it in the blood of its inhabitants, and overturning the established form of government, both in church and state. He had gone so far towards Rome, that even the papists had hopes of him, and (as he says himself?) actually offered him a cardinal's hat. But we are of opinion, with Burnet and some others, that his chief intention was, to establish all the ridiculous ceremonies of popery, without acknowledging the papal power; or in other words to make the archbishop of Canterbury pope in England.

During the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles I. the inhabitants of Reading nobly defended the place against the army of the parliament, under the command of the Earl of Essex. That nobleman having advanced with his forces consisting of 16000 foot and 3000 horse, immediately began the siege in form, the garrison under Sir Arthur Aston, consisting only of 3000 foot and 300 horse. At the beginning of the siege, Sir Arthur received a wound in his head, and being unable to attend his duty, the command devolved on Colonel Fielding. Information being given to the king that the place was invested, his majesty considered it of too much importance to lose, and therefore detached Commissary Wilmot with a body of horse, who managed the affair with so much prudence that he assisted the town with 500 auxiliary forces, besides a considerable quantity of ammunition. Fielding, however, did not think this supply sufficient, and therefore agreed to capitulate; but before he had time to deliver up the place,

place, the king marched with his army from Oxford, and detached the Earl of Bath, with 1000 musqueteers to relieve the place, who being ignorant of the capitulation, attacked with great vigour, the regiments of Lords Roberts and Buckley, who defended Coversham bridge, expecting to be assisted by the garrison; but finding that the governor did not make any sally upon the besiegers, he retreated to the royal army, and Fielding having found means to escape from the town, went to the king, and represented the place was unable to hold out any longer; upon which he obtained his majesty's leave to capitulate, and the garrison marched out with all the honours of war.

In the year 1688, an alarm began at Reading, which instantaneously spread through the whole kingdom, that the Irish disbanded soldiers of king James's army, were ravaging and murdering wherever they came. Every town believed the next to it was actually in flames; and such a panic was raised, that every one was up in arms to defend himself. It was soon, however, found to be a false report, but, from the singularity of the circumstance and the consequence that ensued, it was afterwards distinguished by the name of the *Irish cry*.

About the same time there happened a skirmish between a party belonging to the prince of Orange, and another of King James's troops, in which the latter were repulsed. This skirmish gave rise to the famous ballad of Lilliburlero, and the day on which it happened is still commemorated by the inhabitants.

We have already noticed the fossil oyster shells, found at Catsgrove, near Reading, in a small hill, called Bob's Mount. Some of them are of a very large size, with the valves closed; there are also found numbers of small bones, like the teeth of fish: these fossils are found in a bed of green sand, of one foot six inches to two feet thick, lying upon chalk, the
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next stratum over this sand is a soft loamy earth, of about twenty inches thick ; over this another stratum of green sand, five feet to five feet six inches thick ; and over this is a stratum of fuller's earth, two feet nine inches to three feet thick ; and to the top of the hill clay of about seventy or eighty feet thick, from which they make bricks. The oyster shells are only found in a direction from north to south ; and it is supposed this stratum does not extend more than half a mile in length.

Near Reading, on the opposite side of the Thames, is *Caversham*, the seat of Major Marsac. The house was erected by the Earl of Cadogan, who was created baron of Reading in the year 1716. This was a most magnificent building, but was reduced by his successor, and again altered by the present proprietor. It is situated on an eminence, commanding a very extensive and diversified view of the county of Berks and the adjacent counties. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and the park, though not large, is remarkably picturesque.

There was a priory of Black Canons at Caversham cell to Nuttley Abbey, in Buckinghamshire ; famous for the story of the angel with one wing, who brought hither the spear that pierced our Saviour's side on the cross.

About two miles south-east from Reading is *White Knights*, the seat of the Marquis of Blandford. The house is a plain white building, situated in the centre of the grounds, which are remarkable for their combining, in an eminent degree, the agreeable with the useful. *White Knights* was one of the earliest examples of the *Ferme Ornée*.

About three miles from Reading, on the left of our road to Maidenhead, is the village of *SUNNING*, pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, near the banks of Thames. According to Camden, this place was formerly the see of a bishop, whose diocese included the counties of Berks and Wilts ;

and Leland asserts that no less than nine bishops successively filled this see; the last of whom, Harrison, removed it to Sherborne in Dorsetshire, from whence it was translated to Salisbury. In Leland's time there remained "a fair old house of stone at Sonning, by the Thamise ripe, longing to the bishop of Saresbyrie, and thereby a faire parke." In the parish Church are several ancient inscriptions and sepulchral monuments; on one of the latter are the following pleasing lines, to the memory of two infant children of the family of Rich, who long resided on this spot.

"The father's air, the mother's look,
The sportive smile, and pretty joke,
The rosy lip's sweet babbling grace,
The beauties of the mind and face,
And all the charms of infant souls,
This tomb within its bosom holds."

The parish of Sunning is very extensive, containing, according to Rocque's survey, above 7000 acres, exclusive of that part, which is within an insulated district of Wiltshire before mentioned. Near Sunning Bridge, a plain modern structure of brick, is *Holme Park*, the seat of Richmond Palmer, Esq. The house is situated upon an eminence above the river Thames, which is seen to great advantage, flowing through a beautiful valley, and winding between the distant hills.

About two miles from Sunning, on the line of our route, is *Twyford*, a small village, which receives its name from two fords, over the river Loddon, on which it is situated, near its confluence with the river Thames.

About two miles north-east from Twyford is the small village of *Wargrave*, near the Thames, over which it has a ferry; though now much neglected, it was formerly a market town, and part of the possessions of Queen Emma, who passed the fiery ordeal

ordeal of the Saxons for female chastity. Here the late Earl of Barrymore had a beautiful seat, where he likewise fitted up a private theatre in a most sumptuous manner, at the expence of upwards of 6000*l.* where himself and many of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood acted plays for their amusement. By the expences attending these and other pursuits his lordship dissipated a large fortune, so that all the scenery, &c. of the above mentioned theatre were brought to the hammer and sold. Soon after, the magnificent owner lost his life, by his fusee going off as he was getting out of his phaeton.

The manor of Wargrave, and the hundred of the same name, in which it is situated, were given by Queen Emma to the see of Winchester, but are now the property of Lord Braybrook.

In the parish Church there is a monument to the memory of Thomas Day, Esq. author of "*Sandford and Merton*," and other pleasing and useful publications, who lost his life by a fall from his horse, as he was riding from his house in Surrey, to his mother's at Bears Hill, in this parish. Upon the tomb is the following inscription :

"In memory of Thomas Day, Esq. who died September 28, 1789, aged 41 years; after having promoted, by the energy of his writings, and encouraged by the uniformity of his example, the unremitted exercise of every public and private virtue.

"Beyond the reach of time or fortune's power
Remain, cold stone, remain, and mark the hour
When all the noblest gifts that Heav'n e'er gave
Were center'd in a dark untimely grave :
Oh ! taught on reason's boldest wings to rise,
And catch each glimm'ring of the opening skies ;
Oh, gentle bosom ! Oh, unsullied mind !
Oh, friend to truth, to virtue, to mankind !

Thy dear remains we trust to this sad shrine,
Secure to feel no second loss like thine."

The inappropriate rectory of this parish is charged with the payment of 5*l.* per annum, towards the education of the children of the poor inhabitants. Mr. Robert Pigott, in 1796, gave the interest of 6,700*l.* three per cent. bank annuities for the education and cloathing of 20 boys and 20 girls of Wargrave parish, and directed by his will that a part of the annual income should be paid in weekly allowances to the parents, to encourage them to send their children regularly to school, and continue them there a proper time: these allowances encreasing gradually during five years, if the children remain so long at school.

LAURENCE WALTHAM, about five miles southwest from Maidenhead, was also part of the possessions of Queen Emma, and given by her to the bishop of Winchester. It is reported to have anciently been a place of some consequence, and the buildings wear the appearance of having flourished in better times: the ruins of many others are also visible. The entrance to the village is through an ancient arched gate-way, composed of large oak timbers. Camden mentions that in his time there were the foundations of an old castle to be seen here, and that Roman coins were frequently dug up. Mr. Hearne dug up a silver one of Amyntas, the grandfather of Alexander the Great.

In the parish church of Lawrence Waltham are several tombs of the Neville family.

About a mile from hence is SHOTTESBROOK, a small parish, formerly part of White Waltham, and the seat of a college, founded by Sir William Tressel, in the year 1337. This gentleman also built the church, in which he was buried together with his lady. According to Hearne, the antiquary, a native of White Waltham, "the knight lies wrapt up

up in lead, with his wife in leather at his feet, as appears by a defect in the wall."

The church is a handsome gothic structure, and besides the monument of the founder and his lady, contains several others of great antiquity. In the north transept among others is the tomb of Sir Richard Powle, K. B. who died in 1678, and that of Thomas Noke, with his effigies on brass, "who for his great age and virtuous life was revered of all men, and commonly called Father Noke, created Esquire by King Henry VIII. He was of stature high, and comely: and for excellence in artillery made yeoman of the crown of England; which had, in his life three wives, and by every of them some fruit and offspring; he deceased the 21st August, 1567, in the year of his age 87."

The completion of Shottesbrook Church is said to have been attended with a very extraordinary accident. The architect having either laid the last stone of the spire, or fixed the weather-cock, called for some wine to drink the king's health, which being given him he drank it, and immediately fell to the ground, where he was dashed to pieces, and afterwards buried on the spot. A rough stone, in the shape of a coffin, was placed over his remains, with the interjections, "O! O!" the only sounds he uttered, engraven on it. Mr. Hearne admits the general validity of the story, but upon examination found that the two oval figures, were only portions of the form of a cross. He also observes that upon opening the grave some bones were found in it.

The parish Church at White Waltham, about four miles from Maidenhead, contains the monuments of Sir Edward Sawyer, who died in 1676, and of Sir Constantine Phipps, lord chancellor of Ireland, who died in 1723.

"An entry in the parish register, bearing date 1652, records that Mr. John Blower was vicar of this parish of White Waltham, the space of 67

years, namely from that of our lord 1577, to the year of our lord 1644, as appeareth from the time of his induction to the time of his death." It is said that he removed hither from another benefice ; and that when he died he was nearly 100 years of age.—A story is told of him, that preaching before Queen Elizabeth he addressed her by the appellation of " my royal queen," which a little while afterwards he changed for " my noble queen."—"What, says her majesty (in a sort of whisper, it is to be supposed) am I ten groats worse than I was?" The pun being overheard by the preacher he was so disconcerted that he resolved never to preach another sermon, and for the future always substituted one of the homilies."—*Lyson's Magna Britannia*.

Maidenhead is situated partly in the parish of Cookham, and partly in that of Bray, in the hundred of Barnesh in the deanery of Reading. The ancient name of this place was South Arlington or Sudlington, and according to Leland its present name was acquired from the great veneration paid here to the head of a British virgin, one of the eleven thousand who are said to have been martyred with St. Ursula, their leader, near Cologne in Germany. It appears however that it was incorporated in the 26th of Edward III. by the name of the fraternity or guild of the brothers and sisters of Maiden-hithe, and the town is so called in the most ancient records relating to it. As to the slaughter of the eleven thousand virgins it has been satisfactorily proved that only two of them were put to death Ursula and Undecimilla. The name of the latter having been mistaken by the ignorant monks for the words, un decem mille.

The town is situated on the borders of the Thames, and consists principally of one long paved street, the south side of which is in the parish of Bray.

Before the building of the bridge the great western

tern road, which now passes through Maidenhead, went through Burnham, and crossed the Thames near Cookham at Babham ferry, opposite to which is still to be seen a hollow way, now almost overgrown, leading up Cliefden Hill. The bridge appears to have been built some time about the year 1297, and from this period the town began to flourish and encrease. A chapel was soon afterwards erected dedicated to St. Andrew and Mary Magdalen.

The first bridge was of wood, and it appears to have been one of the principal objects of the fraternity above mentioned, to keep the bridge in repair, for which purpose a toll was granted, and another for all commodities sold in the market, and the corporation was besides allowed annually a tree out of Windsor forest. The present bridge is a work of considerable merit, and was began in 1772, from the designs of Sir Robert Taylor. It consists of seven semicircular arches, built with stone, and three smaller ones of brick at each end. The expence of building amounted to 19,000*l.* exclusive of the purchase of some contiguous land to render the work complete.

The Barge Pier Bridge is maintained by the corporation, for which they are allowed the tolls both over and under it. The Barge Pier divides the counties of Berks and Buckingham.

After the Reformation the town was again incorporated by the name of the warden and burgesses of Maidenhead, and James II. granted them another charter of incorporation, by the style of mayor, bridge-master, and burgesses. Two of the burgesses, who are eleven in number, are annually elected bridge-masters. The high steward, the steward, a recorder, the mayor, and the mayor for the preceding year, are justices of the peace. The mayor is clerk of the market, coroner, and judge of a court which is held once in three weeks.

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The mayor also holds a sessions twice a year. The town contains a gaol for debtors and felons.

There is a great trade here in malt, corn, meal, and timber, which articles are conveyed in barges to London.

The market, granted by the charter of Henry VI. is still held on Wednesdays, and there are three annual fairs on the days inserted in our list.

Eight almshouses were erected here by James Smith, Esq. citizen of London, in the year 1659, for eight men and their wives, who are allowed four shillings a week, and one pound ten shillings a year for coals, also a coat and gown once in two years.

According to the returns under the population act, the number of inhabitants in 1801 appears to have amounted to 949 ; but a subsequent enumeration, supposed to be more correct, encreases the number to 1,100.

A little to the south-east of Maidenhead is a village called BRAY, which though it hath not any thing remarkable, is still of some note, on account of the incumbent of the living, in the sixteenth century, whose conduct gave rise to a proverbial expression, that has ever since been preserved ; namely, when any time-serving person complies with different modes of government, for the pecuniary emoluments, he is called or compared to " the vicar of Bray." The story is thus related : when King Henry VIII. shook off the papal supremacy, the vicar of Bray preached in the most zealous manner against the innovations and encroachments made by the court of Rome, and when the five articles were published he vindicated idolatry with all the strength of prostituted logic. In the reign of Edward VI. when the protestant religion was established by act of parliament, the vicar renounced all his former principles, and became a strenuous advocate for the reformation. On the accession of Queen Mary, he again vindicated the doctrines of the church of Rome,

Rome, and became a zealous papist, inveigling with great acrimony against all those worthy persons who abhorred the Romish religion. He enjoyed his benefice until the reformed religion was established in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when he once more changed with the times, and enjoyed his vicarage till his death.

It is little to be wondered at, that such a character, utterly devoid of every principle, except avarice, should often meet with reproach; but so insensible was he of every thing, that bore the name of moral honesty, that instead of being in the least affected by it his constant answer was "I will live and die vicar of Bray."

William Goddard, Esq. in the year 1627 founded an hospital here for forty poor persons, who, in addition to their place of residence, are allowed eight shillings a month. Over the door of the almshouse is a statue of the founder.

Camden supposes that *Bray* was the Roman *BRACTE*, and to have occupied by the *Bibroci*, who submitted to Cæsar.

In Ferrar's Tour from Dublin to London, we are informed that some workmen, digging in a bed of stiff clay, not many years since, somewhere in this neighbourhood, discovered the perfect petrefaction of a turtle, weighing forty-nine pounds and measuring sixteen inches in its largest diameter.

*Journey from Highworth in Wiltshire to Abingdon ;
through Faringdon.*

About two miles from Highworth we enter the county of Berks at its western extremity, and pass through *Coleshill*, which seems to have derived its name from its elevated situation above the river Cole, which runs near the bottom of the village, and forms the western boundary of the parish.

The church is a handsome structure, dedicated to Saint Faith, ornamented at the west end by a tower, with battlements and pinnacles. The inside
of

of the church is fitted up in an elegant manner, and there is some fine painted glass, of modern workmanship, in a curious circular window in the south aisle; the painting represents the arms of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell and his lady. In the same aisle is an elegant marble monument, executed by Rysbrack, to the memory of the only daughter of the above persons, and wife of the Honourable William Bouverie, afterwards Earl of Radnor. There is another of artificial stone, in the gothic style, in memory of Sir M. S. Pleydell, Bart. and his lady. In the east window of the chancel is some finely stained glass, representing the Nativity, purchased at Angiers, in 1787, by the Earl of Radnor, and put up here at his expence.

The Rev. John Pinsent, vicar of this parish in the year 1706, gave an estate of about 15l. per annum, for apprenticing the children of such of the poor inhabitants of Coleshill and Great Coxwell, (a neighbouring village) as had never received relief from their parish. The sum of 5l. to be allotted for each child

COLESHILL HOUSE, the seat of Lord Viscount Folkstone, eldest son of the Earl of Radnor, is situated near the village. It was built by Inigo Jones, about the middle of the 17th century, and still retains its original form.

The late Lord Orford, speaking of Inigo Jones as an artist, observes that he was "the greatest in his profession that has ever appeared in these kingdoms; and so great that in that reign of arts (Charles I.) we scarcely know the name of another architect." The grounds have within these few years undergone a complete alteration, and have been laid out under the direction of the Earl of Radnor, according to the present improved taste of landscape gardening. They are remarkably beautiful, possessing every requisite to render the scenery perfect.

About

About four miles north from Coleshill, on the road from Faringdon to Lechdale, is **BUSCOT HOUSE**, the seat of Edward Lovedon, Esq. It forms a conspicuous object from the Faringdon road. The park comprises about 150 acres, formerly a farm, which was repurchased by Mr. Lovedon, after having been out of the family 150 years. The parish of Buscot, anciently Burwardscot, contains 2850 acres of land, enclosed by a decree in chancery in 1614.

In the parish church of **GREAT COXWELL**, about two miles south-west of Faringdon, are some tombs of the family of Mores, ancestors of Edward Rowe Mores, the antiquary, who collected some materials towards a history of this county. In the chancel window are the arms of several possessors of the manor, put up by the Earl of Radnor, who is now lord of the manor, and impropiator of the great tythes. The manor-house great barn, and some lands annexed, however, belong to the representatives of John Richmond Webb, Esq. lately deceased. The barn is a remarkably fine piece of masonry, 148 feet long, by 40 in breadth. The walls are four feet thick, and the roof is supported by two rows of large upright timbers, resting upon massy stone pillars. It was originally built by the abbots of Beaulieu, to whom the manor was granted by King John in 1204.

SHRIVENHAM, about three miles south from Coleshill, was anciently a place of considerable note, and was a market town, with a fair on the festival of Saint Mary Magdalen, both of which however have been long discontinued. The church is a large and handsome gothic structure. Withinside is a double row of circular columns and arches, extending the whole length of the building, and forming aisles both for the nave and the chancel. The tower, which is in the centre, is supported by four painted arches. In the chancel are the monuments of Sir John

John Wildman, John Wildman, Esq. his son, the first Viscount Barrington, and his son the second Viscount. To the memory of the last is the following inscription.

“ In the south-eastern part of the chancel are deposited the remains of William Wildman, Viscount Barrington, born January 15, 1717, died February 1, 1793. His strong discriminating understanding, his active talents, and unremitting assiduity in public business, rendered him early conspicuous in the House of Commons, of which he was 39 years uninterruptedly a member. During 34 years of that period, under the reigns of George II. and III. (two princes, whose confidence he enjoyed,) he served the crown with inflexible integrity, high honour, and distinguished abilities, in the office of secretary of the admiralty, master of the great wardrobe, secretary at war, chancellor of the exchequer, and treasurer of the navy. In 1778, he retired from parliament and public employment, to private life; in full possession of his bodily and mental powers, and in the highest merited favour with his sovereign. The candour of his mind, the soundness of his judgment, his accurate knowledge of mankind, and the urbanity of his manners, made him the delight of every society in which he lived. His zeal to promote the public good, his wish to diffuse happiness all around him, his benevolence which flowed from the heart, his kindness to the tenants and poor of his estates, and his affection to his family, secured to his character an esteem, attachment, veneration, and love, which it has been the lot of few to experience. This monument is erected to his memory by his three surviving brothers, to whom he was the best of fathers and of friends.”

The honourable Samuel Barrington, admiral of the white, brother of Lord Barrington, who died August 16, 1800, distinguished himself by his gallant

lant behaviour in the wars of 1741, and 1756 ; particularly by the capture of the Count de Florentine, a French ship of 60 guns, the flag of which still remains in the Chancel of Shrivenham church ; he gained immortal honour by his repulse of a very superior force of the enemy at St. Lucie, when he had the command of a fleet in the West Indies in 1779. The Admiral lies buried in the family vault at Shrivenham, where a monument has lately been erected to his memory with the following inscription. The verses were composed by the celebrated Mrs. Hannah Moore.

“ Sacred to the memory of the honourable Samuel Barrington, admiral of the white, and general of marines, born February 1730, died August 16, 1800.”

“ Here rests the hero, who in glory’s page
Wrote his fair deeds for more than half an age ;
Here rests the patriot, who for England’s good,
Each toil encounter’d, and each clime withstood ;
Here rests the Christian, his the loftier theme,
To sieze the conquest, yet renounce the fame.
He, when his arm St. Lucia’s trophies boasts,
Ascribes his glory to the Lord of Hosts ;
And when the harder task remained behind,
The passive courage and the will resigned,
Patient the vet’ran victor yields his breath,
Secure, to him who conquer’d sin and death.”

“ On the top of **BADBURY HILL**, on the north side of the turnpike road leading from Faringdon to Highworth, and within a few yards of it, is a camp of a circular form, 200 yards in diameter, with a ditch twenty yards wide. About nine years ago, in levelling the north rampart, human bones and coals were found ; and human bones are found every year in digging for peat in the swampy ground about one mile south of the hill. Leland, in his Itinerary, says, that he learned of certainty, that,

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“ a mile

“ a mile out of Faringdon, towards the right way to Highworth, appeared a great ditche, wher a fortesse, or rather a camp of warre, had been, as some say, diked by the Danes as a sure camp,” Mr. Wise, in his letter to Dr. Mead, supposes that the battle of *Mons Badonicus*, or Badbury Hill, in the year 520, mentioned by *Bede* and *Gildas*, in which Arthur gained his twelfth victory, was fought near the White Horse Hill, but if from similarity of names it may be concluded that the battle happened in this neighbourhood, there is much more probability of *this* being the spot, than the Wiltshire hills; as this camp is Danish, and nearer to the White Horse Hill, than the other in Wilts, the fortifications of which are Roman. Between the camp and the White Horse Hill is a plain dead flat, five miles wide, a very proper place for the engagement of two armies.”

FARINGDON

Is a small market town by prescription, pleasantly situated on the west side of Faringdon Hill, about two miles from the Thames. It now gives name to a hundred, but was formerly in the hundred of Wifol. According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, Faringdon and its hamlets then contained 1916 inhabitants.

The market is held on Tuesday, and there are three annual fairs on the days mentioned in our list.

The town is governed by a bailiff and inferior officers.

Faringdon was part of the ancient demesne of the crown, and the Saxon kings had a palace here, in which Edward the elder died in the year 925.

Robert Earl of Gloucester built a castle here in the reign of King Stephen, against whom he fortified and defended it; but after a close siege of four days, it was taken and razed to the ground. The site of it, according to the chronicle of Waverley Abbey, quoted by Camden, was by King John, in
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the year 1202, "by divine admonition granted with all its appurtenances to build an abbey of the Cistercian order."

"These fruitful plains, in that unhappy hour
Of papal sway and sacerdotal power,
Were doom'd the new-made abbey to maintain,
And distant Beaulieu ruled the fair domain."

Faringdon Hill.

After the dissolution of monasteries the manor of Faringdon, with the other possessions, of the Abbey of Beaulieu were granted to Thomas Lord Seymour, by Edward VI. but again vesting in the crown by the attainder and execution of this nobleman, it was granted, in the second year of Queen Mary to Sir Frederick Englefield, and again by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Henry Unton. The present proprietor is William Hallet, Esq.

The parish church of Faringdon is a handsome gothic structure of considerable dimensions. It is built in form of a cross, but with a double transept. Upon the low square tower there was originally a spire, which was destroyed during the Civil Wars. There are several ancient monuments in this church of the Purefoys of Wadley, and their ancestors, Sir Alexander, Sir Edward, Sir Thomas and Sir Henry Unton. Upon that of Sir Alexander are figures in brass of himself, and his lady, inhabited in surcoats, with their arms blazoned. Sir Henry Unton, who resided at Wadley in this parish, was knighted for his bravery at the siege of Zutphen. He was twice ambassador from Queen Elizabeth to the court of France, where he distinguished himself by sending a remarkable challenge to the Duke of Guise, who had spoken disrespectfully of his mistress.

Sir Henry died during his second embassy in 1596.

In the nave of the church is the tomb of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, governor of Faringdon, who successfully defended the garrison against the parliamentary forces. He died April 26, 1646.

In the year 1771, as some labourers were digging stones in a field called Lamb Close, in this parish, they discovered six human skeletons, lying there in a row; under the heads of two of them were found some pieces of silver coin of James I. and Charles I. and one of the skulls appeared to have had a bullet gone quite through it. By the size of the bones and soundness of the teeth they were probably young men, and soldiers, slain in the reign of Charles I. during the civil wars.

At Radcot Bridge, situated at the extremity of the parish, a battle was fought between Robert Vere, Duke of Ireland, Richard the Second's favourite, and the Earl of Derby (afterwards Henry IV.) and other confederate lords. The duke was defeated, and escaped by crossing the river at the hazard of his life.

FARINGDON HOUSE is an elegant modern edifice, built by Henry James Pye, Esq. the present poet laureat, and sold by him with the manor to William Hallet, Esq. the present proprietor.

The house stands in a small park, on the north side of the town. During the Civil Wars the ancient mansion was garrisoned for Charles I. and was one of the last places that surrendered. Cromwell himself made an unsuccessful attack upon this garrison, with 600 men from the garrison of Abingdon; a second attack, with as little success, was made the following year by Sir Robert Pye, the owner of the house: Sir George Lisle was then governor. In this attack the spire of Faringdon Church is said to have been beaten down.

In the immediate vicinity of the town is Faringdon Hill, an eminence gradually rising from the vale of White Horse, upon the summit of which is a small grove, which forms a kind of land mark for the surrounding counties, being seen at a great distance in every direction.

Faringdon Hill commands a rich and extensive, view over parts of Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire,

Wiltshire, in addition to the whole of the fertile vale beneath.

“ Here lofty mountains lift their azure heads,
 There its green lap the grassy meadow spreads :
 Enclosures here the sylvan scene divide,
 There plains extended spread their harvest wide.
 Here oaks their massy limbs wide stretching meet,
 And form impervious thickets at our feet.
 Through aromatic heaps of rip’ning hay,
 There silver Isis wins her winding way ;
 And many a bower, and many a spire between,
 Shoots from the groves and cheers the rural scene.”

Pye’s Faringdon Hill.

About five miles from Faringdon, on the right of our road, is the manor of PUSEY, said to have been granted to the family of Pusey by King Canute, and an ancient horn is still preserved, by which it is said to have been held. Upon it is the following inscription :

Kynge Knout geue Wylliam Pusey
 This horn to hold by thy Lond.

Mr. Gough describes this horn to be of a dark brown tortoise shell colour, mounted at each end with rings of silver, and a third round the middle, on which the inscription is written in characters of much later date than those of the time of Canute. The horn is of an ox or buffalo, two feet are fixed to the middle ring, and the stopper is shaped like a dog’s ring. The length of the horn is two feet and half an inch ; its greatest circumference one foot. The traditionary story is, that the person to whom the horn was originally given was an officer in Canute’s army, and having informed his sovereign of an ambuscade formed by the Saxons to intercept him was rewarded with a grant of the manor for his intelligence.

It is certain, however, that this estate was possessed by the family of Pusey from the earliest period of our history until it became extinct in the year 1710.

The Hon. Philip Bouverie, uncle of the present Earl of Radnor, and a descendant from a colateral branch of the ancient family, has taken the name of Pusey, and has been in possession of the estate since the year 1789.

In the reign of Edward I. Alice Paternoster held lands in Pusey by service of saying a paternoster five times a day for the souls of the king's ancestors: and it appears that Richard Paternoster, on succeeding to an estate in this parish, instead of paying a sum of money as a relief, said the Lord's prayer thrice before the barons of the exchequer as John his brother had done before.

The parish Church, which was rebuilt at the expence of Mrs. Allen Pusey, contains several ancient monuments, and one by Scheemaker, remarkably handsome, in memory of John Allen Pusey, Esq. and his lady.

About a mile from Pusey, on the right of our road is Cherbury Camp which according to tradition is the site of a palace which belonged to Canute. It is nearly circular, and double-ditched, much resembling Badbury Castle in Dorsetshire, but smaller.—Its longest diameter is 310 paces.

About a mile from this, in the parish of Henton Walridge, there are the traces of another camp, now an orchard, and between a hill called Windmill-Hill, which perhaps might have been used for signals.

In the parish of *Kingston Bagpuze*, eight miles from Faringdon, upon our road, is Newbridge, over the Thames, where two annual fairs are held on the days mentioned in our list. At this bridge the parliamentary army were repulsed, on their attempt to pass it, the 27th May 1644. It was however passed the 2d June by Waller, without opposition.

In the parish church of Fyfield, about nine miles from Faringdon, in the south aisle is a curious monument of Sir John Golafre, who died in 1442, lord of the manor. His effigies in armour lie on an
open

open altar tomb, beneath which is the figure of a skeleton in a shroud. The common people call it Gulliver's tomb, and say that the figure on the top represents him in the vigour of youth; the skeleton in his old age. There are also several other ancient monuments. One to the memory of Lady Gordon, who died about the year 1527, stands under an arch in the north side of the chancel. It has a roof of rich tracery, blue and gold, and over the arch is a cornice of gilt foliage. The brass plates have been removed.

At Tubney, near Bessels Leigh, there was a church in Leland's time, now down. The sinecure rectory belongs to Magdalen College, Oxford.

"Bessels Leigh, a little village three miles from Hinksey-ferry, in the highway from Oxford to Far-ington. The Bessels have been lords of it ever since Edward I. The manor-house is of stone at the west end of the church. They had a another strong pile, now a manor place at Radcote on the Isis, both estates came by marriage of the heir general to Fetiplace."—*Leland's Itinerary*.

In the manor-house at this place, now pulled down, was formerly the celebrated picture of Sir Thomas More's family, now in the possession of John Lenthall, Esq. lord of the manor of Bessils Leigh.

ABINGDON.

The following is the description of this town, as given us by Leland in his itinerary :

"*Abingdone* stands on the right side of the Isis, and was of very old time called *Seukesham*, since *Abendune*. The abbey was first began at *Bagley-wood* in Berkshire, two miles higher, on the *Ise* than *Abingdon* now is; afterwards translated to *Seuke-sham*, and there finished most by the costes of King Cissa, that thereafter was buried; but the very place and tomb of his burial never known syns the Danes defaced *Abingdon*.

At *Seovesham* was found the famous cross made
of

of the nails of the cross, which struck dead all who forswore themselves on it. "One Eanus a noble Saxon began to build a little monastery by the permission of Cissa his master, king of the Saxons, at a place called (Bagley Wood or) Chisewel, two miles from Abingdon north north-east. The place after not being thought convenient, it was translated to Seusham, whereupon the new monastery being built, it was called *Abundane*, i. e. *Abbatis Oppidum*, where Cissa was buried. The abbey rose again, after its destruction by the Danes, but it was a pore thing ontill such time as king Edgar, by the counsel of Ethelwolde bishop of Winchester, 953, afterwards abbot here, richly encreased it. There was one Faribitus a stranger and physician made abbot after the conquest. He removed the old church that then stood more northerly, where now the orchard is, and made the east part and transept new, adorning it with small marble pillars." "The central tower and the west front with its towers were built by four abbots in the 15th century. Ethelwold, another abbot, brought the stream of Isis close to and through the abbey. The chief stream of Isis before ran betwixt Anderseyisle and Culneham (Culham) where now is the south end of Culneham. The other arm that breaketh out of Isis, about a quarter of a mile above Culneham, and cummeth down through Culneham bridge, is now the lesse piece of the whole river. In great floods Culneham water goes partly to the bottom of Isis, and then ther by three streams. There was of olde time a fortress in Andersey by south-west of Abandune, in a meadow againe St. Helen's almost in the middle between the old and new bottom of Isis: part of it stode after the conquest, and there were kept the king's hawks and hounds. One of the abbots gave the Sutton lordship in exchange for it: the scite is still called the *Castle of the Rhe a fluxio* preterlabente, and is occupied by an old barn. St. Edward the martyr's

martyr's reliques were kept in this abbey, where some say he was in his tender age brought up. The rents of the abbey were almost 2000*l. per annum.*

Abingdon, the county town of Berkshire, is situated at the conflux of the Ock and the Thames, in the hundred of Hormer : it appears to have been originally called *Seovcchesham* or *Scusham*, and was at a very remote period of our history a large and wealthy town, where was the royal residence, and the seat of government, and where, before the establishment of christianity, the Britons had their principal place of religious worship. It is also said to have become the settlement of the Britons, on their first conversion, and a cross is said to have been discovered by the Saxons after they had expelled the ancient inhabitants : the following legendary tale is brought forward to support the fact.

“ At the time when the wicked pagan Hengist basely murdered 460 noblemen and barons at Stonehengist or Stonehenge, *Aben* a nobleman's son, escaped into a wood on the south side of Oxfordshire, where, leading a most holy life, the inhabitants of the country flocking to him to hear the word of God, built him a dwelling house, and a chapel in honor of the Holy Virgin, but he disliking their resort, stole away to Ireland ; and from him the place where he dwelt is called Abingdun.”

The foundation of the town is however more generally ascribed to the Saxons, and, according to Camden, as soon as Cissa, king of the West Saxons, founded the monastery or abbey here, it gradually dropt its older name, and began to assume that of Abbandun or Abbingdon : i. e. the town of the abbey.

The monastery mentioned by Leland was founded by Heane or his uncle Cissa, one of the viceroys of Centwin, king of the West Saxons, in the year 675. It was begun near Bagwell Wood, in the parish of Cunmer or, according to others, near Bagworth, in the

the neighbouring parish of Sunning-well, and was afterwards removed to Seusham.

Dugdale, in his *Monasticon*, informs us, that “There were twelve mansions about this monastery at first, and as many chapels, inhabited by twelve monks, without any cloister, but shut in with a high wall; none being allowed to go out without great necessity and the abbot’s leave. No woman ever entered the same; and none dwelt there but the twelve monks and the abbot. They wore black habits, and lay on sackcloth, never eating flesh unless in dangerous sickness.”

After flourishing two centuries, this abbey was destroyed by the Danes in the reign of King Alfred. Their estates were also taken by Alfred, as a compensation to him for having vanquished their enemies the Danes. It continued desolate and in ruins till Edred, the grandson of Alfred, restored some part of the possessions of the convent, and laid the first stone of a new monastery. St. Ethelwold, the abbot, who was afterwards bishop of Winchester, and his successor Adgar, completed the work. Succeeding abbots increased its splendor, and it was soon raised to the highest rank among the monastic institutions of the kingdom, becoming one of the mitred abbeys. At the time of the Norman survey it appears that they possessed upwards of 30 manors in Berkshire, in their own possession, besides several others, which were held under them as lords of the fee. At the time of the Dissolution, their annual revenue was valued at 1876*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* The abbey was a magnificent pile of building, of which the gate house, with some remnants among the old buildings, are occupied as a brewery by the proprietor, Mr. Child. The gate-way is now used as a gaol.

Camden describes the ruins as exhibiting, in his time, evident marks of its former grandeur.

Several illustrious persons were buried in the abbey. The remains of Cissa, the founder were interred

interred within its walls, but his tomb was entirely destroyed by the Danes. Among the eminent persons who have received sepulture here, may be reckoned St. Edward, king and martyr, Robert D'Orley, the builder of Oxford Castle, a powerful baron in the reign of William the Conqueror, and Geoffry of Monmouth the historian, who is said to have been abbot of Abingdon.

The convent was surrendered to the king by Thomas Pentecost alias Rowland, the last abbot, who was among the first to acknowledge his supremacy, a conduct which obtained for him a pension of 200*l.* per annum, besides the capital mansion and Packet Cumner (which had been his country-seat as abbot of Abingdon) for life.

The site of the abbey was granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, and afterwards to Sir Thomas Wroth.

There was another religious establishment in Abingdon, founded by Cissa sister to Heane, for nuns, near the Thames called Helnestow, of which she afterwards became the abbess. On the death of Cissa, the nuns were removed to Witham, whence they dispersed at the commencement of the war between Offa king of the Mercians, and Kinewulph king of the West Saxons.

There are at present two parish Churches in Abingdon, dedicated to St. Nicholas and St. Helen. The former is said to have been built by abbot Nicholas, near the outside of the west gate of the abbey, some time between the years 1289 and 1307. The circular door at the west end, with zig-zag ornaments, appears to be of a much earlier age.—Leland says that there was “of old tyme the chefe parochie church of Abyndon, but the greatest resorte of all the towne was to St. Helens.” The church of St. Helen’s is a large gothic building, with a handsome spire. It is situated near the river, and appears to have been altered and enlarged at various times. In a gallery of the aisle, called our Lady’s
Aisle,

Aisle, in this church, hangs a tablet, with a portrait of Mr. William Lee, who died at the age of 92.—The portrait is accompanied by a genealogical tree, and an inscription, which records that he had seventeen children (of which 15 were by his second wife), 78 grand children, and 102 great grand children. In the nave is a brass-plate, which covers the bones of Geoffery Barbour, the great benefactor of the town, who died April 21, 1417. They were removed from the abbey after the Dissolution.

The vicarage of St. Helen's is in the crown.

The town of Abingdon, as it owed its eminence to, so it entirely depended on the abbey, before the building of Benford and Culham Bridges, by means of which the great road was turned through this town. The above mentioned Geoffery Barbour, a merchant of Abingdon, was a great promoter of this improvement, subscribing 1000 marks towards the erection of the bridges, and making a causeway between them.

Leland describes Abingdon as having a considerable manufactory, but before Queen Mary's reign it had greatly declined, as appears from her charter of incorporation, granted to the town in 1556, stating "that the town had fallen into great ruin and decay by the dilapidations of houses, fulling mills, &c. and was like to come and fall into extreme calamities." In consideration of the state to which the town was reduced, she also granted the townsmen lands to the value of 102l. 6s. 7d. per annum, to enable them to pay their fee-farm rent, and to maintain the state and reputation of the town. By the charter the government of the town was vested in a mayor, two bailiffs, and nine aldermen. This charter also granted the privilege of sending one member to parliament, vesting the right of election in the corporation. It has, however, of late been determined to be in the inhabitants at large not receiving alms.—The number of electors amounts to about 600.

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The town consists of several streets, which centre in a spacious area, where the market is kept, toll free, on Monday and Friday for corn. The Market-house is a handsome building, of curious workmanship ; over it is a noble hall, where the summer assize is held. The county court is kept here once a month, at which the members for the county are elected, as also the coroners and verdurers of Windsor Forest.

There was formerly a beautiful cross, which stood in the centre of the market, mentioned by Camden, as remarkable for its superior elegance. It was destroyed on the 31st May, 1644, by the troops of Waller, the parliamentary general. It was composed of stone, of an octangular shape, and adorned with three rows of statues, the lowest row consisted of three *grave* kings ; the next of the Virgin Mary, four female saints, and a mitred prelate ; and the uppermost row of small figures either of prophets or apostles. It was also ornamented with numerous shields of arms carved and painted. Mr. Gough supposes it to have been built by the Guild of Holy Cross, as the arms of Sir John Golafre, one of the commissioners by whom that fraternity was incorporated in the reign of Henry VI. was, with many others, found on it, in the year 1605, when it was repaired, and the shields of the then benefactors added.

The Gild or Brotherhood of the Holy Cross had established themselves at a very early period in this town, but were first incorporated by royal charter, as abovementioned, in the year 1442. About this time it appears “ they annually made on the third of May, being the day of the invention of the holy cross, a very bountiful feast, unto which came many of the brethren and sisters of the society. They spent usually six calves, which in those days cost about 2s. 2d. a piece, 16 lambs, which cost 12d. a piece ; above 80 capons, which cost 3d. a piece ;

above 80 geese, which cost $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. a piece ; 800 eggs which cost 5d. a hundred ; many marrow bones, much fruit and spice, great quantities of milk, cream, and flour, (wheat was good cheap being sold for 12d. a quarter, in the 33rd year of Henry VI.) besides all this provision, they had much sent them by the tenants, and by the brethren and sisters of the said fraternity. They had also at their feasts, 12 priests to sing a dirge, to whom they gave 4d. a piece for their pains. They had 12 minstrels, some from Coventry, and some from Maidenhead, to make them merry, to whom they gave 2s. and 3d. a piece ; besides their diet and horse-meat. They had likewise at their feasts a solemn procession, according to the blind superstition and zeal of those dark days, pageants, plays, may-games, all to captivate the senses of the zealous beholders, and to allure the people to greater liberality ; for they did not make their feasts without profit ; but those that sat at dinner paid one rate and those that for want of room, did stand paid another ; so that they of the fraternity that governed the feast (who were commonly four in number) always made gain to the common stock for public uses. Their feasts were kept a long time in Banbury Court in West St. Helen's Street ; afterwards in a house of their own, given them by Mr. William Dyer, vicar of Bray, in East St. Helen's street, commonly called the brotherhood feast house." After the dissolution of religious houses in 1547, Edward VI. at the request of Sir John Mason, granted a new charter to some of the principal inhabitants of the town, incorporating them by the name of the governors of Christ's Hospital, which hospital had been built in 1446, by the dissolved fraternity ; for the reception of thirteen poor persons maintained by them. In 1718 a new building was erected out of the hospital funds, in which 18 poor persons are maintained. There are now 14 in the old hospital. They have all 6s. per week each, and cloaths once in

two

two years. The original hospital, built in 1446, of timber and plaister, is still standing.

There are several other almshouses in the town. The sums collected for charitable purposes amount to about 900*l.* per annum ; part of which is appropriated to support a Free-School, founded by Mr. John Royes, in 1563, for 63 poor boys. Thomas Teasdale, the first scholar on this foundation, left the sum of 500*l.* to Baliol College in Oxford, to purchase lands for the maintenance of seven fellows and six scholars, to be chosen from Abingdon School, by the master and governors of Christ's Hospital. Baliol College having declined the bequest, it was given to Pembroke College, which was founded in 1624. The school at Abingdon has for many years been in great repute ; and many eminent characters have here received the rudiments of learning. Among others may be reckoned Sir John Mason, Lord Chief Justice Holt, Dr. Newcome, the late Primate of Ireland, a native of Abingdon, and the late Rev. Richard Graves, author of the " Spiritual Quixote," and many other works.

Sir John Mason, above mentioned, was the son of a cow herd, and born near Abingdon, towards the latter end of the reign of Henry VII. His mother being the sister of a monk in the abbey, that ecclesiastic took him under his tuition, and instructed him in grammar learning ; after which he procured his admission into All Souls College, Oxford, where he obtained a fellowship.

In 1523, when Henry VIII. went on a visit to Oxford, Mason, on account of his graceful appearance and distinguished address, was appointed to make the compliments of that learned body to their sovereign ; and this task he performed with so much applause, that the king was charmed with his uncommon abilities, and generously sent him, at his own expence, to finish his studies at Paris.

While abroad he acquired so much knowledge of the nature of public affairs, that he was employed in several embassies, and on his return to England, he was knighted, and sworn a member of the privy council.

In the reigns of Edward VI. and his sister Mary, Sir John Mason, discharged the duties of several high employments ; and on the accession of Queen Elizabeth, he was chosen chancellor of Oxford. This dignified character he enjoyed till his death, which happened in 1566 ; and his remains were deposited in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The most considerable manufacture of the town of late years has been the dressing of hemp, and making sacking, biscuit-bagging, and floor and sail cloths, which has constituted the principal employment of the poor. A great trade is also carried on in malt for the London markets. For the convenience of the barges employed in this trade, a commodious wharf has been completed at the extremity of the town, beyond which the new cut, forming a small curve, joins the main river a short distance below Culham Bridge.

Leland in his Itinerary says, " There yet appear two camps by Abingdon, one called *Serpen Hill*, a quarter of a mile north-east out of the town. Here it is said was a battle between the Danes and Saxons ; part of the trenches yet remains : the other is called *Barrow*, a little west from the town."

Journey from Faringdon to Wallingford ; through Wantage.

The village of *Stanford*, four miles from Faringdon, sometimes called *Stanford-in-the-Vale*, was formerly a market town, by virtue of a charter from Henry III. The market has been long discontinued. The parish Church is a handsome gothic building, the tower forming one of the most distinguished objects in the vale. It contains among others

others a curious monument of the Knolis family, a nephew of the first Earl of Banbury, who died in 1640.

The fine and fertile vale in which this parish is situated extends almost from Faringdon to Abingdon, though not in a direct line. It takes its name from the most remarkable antiquity of the county: the figure of a WHITE HORSE, formed on the north-west side of a high and steep hill. Mr. Wise in his "Observations on the White Horse," and "Letters on Berkshire" ascribes the formation of this figure to *Alfred*, who ordered it to be made as a trophy of the signal victory which he obtained over the Danes at Ashdown in this neighbourhood, in the year 871.

"Carv'd rudely on the pendant soil, is seen
The snow-white courser stretching o'er the green:
The antique figure scan, with curious eye,
The glorious monument of victory!
Then England rear'd her long-dejected head,
Then Alfred triumph'd, and Invasion bled."

Pye's Faringdon Hill.

The horse is represented in a galloping position, in the upper part of the hill and is 374 feet in length, occupying nearly an acre of ground; its shape is determined by trenched lines cut in the white chalk, between two and three feet deep, and about ten broad. The head, neck, body and tail, are composed of one line varying in width, and one line or trench, has also been made for each of the legs.

Though the situation of this figure effectually preserves it from all danger of obliteration, yet the neighbouring parishes have a custom of assembling annually at Midsummer, for the purpose of clearing it from weeds. This practice is called *scouring the horse*, and is generally attended by a rustic festival and the celebration of various games.

Mr. Wise, and other antiquaries, have satisfactorily

torily proved that this figure must have been the production of the West Saxons, not later than the age of Alfred, in whose reign the white horse, the original standard of the Pagan Saxons, was discarded for the Christian banner of the cross. As to the particular event which occasioned its formation, Mr. Wise determines it to have been the battle of Ashdown, which, according to him, was fought in that part of the neighbourhood which includes the range of hills from Letcombe running into Wiltshire, and now crossed by a very ancient tract called the Ridge Way. The names of Ashes, Ashenden, Ashbury, and Ashdown, all found within this district, tend to corroborate the opinion.

“Here then,” observes Mr. Wise, “I was persuaded to look for the field of battle, and was agreeably surprised to find my expectation answered in every respect. Upon the highest hill of these parts north-eastward, is a large Roman entrenchment, called Uffington Castle, where, I suppose, the Danes lay encamped; for as their marches were generally hasty, and more like that of plunderers than of a regular army, they had not time to throw up fortifications; nor indeed was there occasion, where they found enough of them ready made to their hands. This place I chose for the Danes, because Asser says, they had got the upper ground. About half a mile lower westward on the brow of the hill, nearer to Ashbury, overlooking a farmhouse, is a camp fortified, seemingly after the Saxon manner, with two ditches, but not near so strong as the former, which has only one; this is called *Hardwell Camp*, and here I suppose King Ethelred lay the night before the engagement. About a mile or more from hence, beneath the wood of Ashdown Park, is a slight roundish entrenchment, which seems to have been thrown up in haste, and which, as I have been informed is called *Ashbury Camp*, and *King Alfred's Castle*. Such a signal victory

victory as the Saxons obtained in this place, deserved not to pass without some token or memorial of it; and such I take to be the White Horse, described on the hill almost under Uffington Castle. Alfred in setting up his banner for a token did nothing but what was exactly agreeable to ancient practice; and though he had not the opportunity of raising, like other conquerors, a stupendous monument of brass or marble, yet he has shewn an admirable contrivance in erecting one magnificent enough, though simple in its design, that may hereafter vie with the pyramids for duration, and perhaps exist when those shall be no more."

About a mile westward from White Horse Hill, near the *Ridge Way*, leading over the downs, there is a large *tumulus* called the WAYLAND SMITH; supposed to be a druidical remain. The surface of this tumulus is covered with several of the large stones, called Sarsden stones, found in the neighbourhood, irregularly placed. It is also surrounded with a circle of stone; three of the largest have a fourth laid on them, in the manner of British cromlechs. There is a singular tradition respecting this piece of antiquity, accounting for its present appellation. The peasants relate that this spot was formerly inhabited by an invisible blacksmith, who good-naturedly shod any horse that was left here, provided a piece of money was deposited at the same time to reward the labours of the workman.

Just under the White Horse Hill there is another large tumulus or barrow, called Dragon Hill, which Mr. Auberry and others have conjectured to be the burial place of Uter Pendragon.

About a mile before we reach Wantage we cross the Berks and Wilts Canal.

WANTAGE

Is a large handsome town, situated near a brook which runs into the river Ock. It is a market town
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by prescription ; the market being on Saturdays. The municipal government of the town is vested in a chief constable, and the number of inhabitants, according to the returns made in 1801, appear to have been then 3043 ; of which, however, 60 were in the hamlet of West Locking, 247 in Charlton, and 397 in the hamlet of Grove.

The inhabitants of Wantage are chiefly employed in the manufacture of a coarse cloth, called foul-weather cloth, and sacking.

The parish Church is a spacious and handsome gothic structure, built in form of a cross. It contains several ancient monuments of the family of Fitzwarren, who are said to have erected the church.

In the parish register is the following remarkable entry : “ September 1598—a strange miracle ! the 19 daye was buried two men children, growing together from the breast to the navels, having all their right members, each of them being the children of John Russel and Elizabeth his wife.”

Round the Old Market Cross is the following inscription :

“ Pray for the good Earl of Bath, and for good master William Barnabe, the builder hercof, 1580, and for William Lord Fitzwarren.”

Leland notices Wantage as being remarkable for having two churches in one church-yard ; one of the churches he speaks of is an ancient building now used as a school ; the north door has a circular arch, enriched with spiral mouldings and grotesque heads.

By an act passed in the year 1598 the town lands, given in the reigns of Henry VI. and Henry VII. for charitable uses, were vested in twelve of the better sort of inhabitants, who are to appropriate the revenues to the relief of the poor, the repair of the highways, and the support of a grammar-school.

There

There is also an English school supported out of the profits of these lands.

In 1680 Mr. Robert Styles founded and endowed an Almshouse, for 12 poor persons, who receive 3s. 6d. a week each.

A variety of concurring testimonies render it probable that Wallingford was once a Roman station. The vallum or surrounding wall being easily discovered on the south of the brook above mentioned, inclosing a space now called the High Garden. The hollow way from Faringdon makes another side, as does the morass and rivers the others. The site of the station appears to have occupied a space of six acres, within an inclosure called *Limborough*. On the north side of the brook, a great many Roman coins have been found, and between this spot and the rivers, the remains of a building were discovered which was paved and appeared to have been a Roman bath.

Two Roman roads appear to have gone either through or very near Wantage, in a parallel direction, across the county from Wiltshire, to the Thames. The Ikening or Ikeneld Street, or as it is called in Berkshire the Ikleton Way, and that known by the name of the *Portway*, a title common to the Roman roads in many parts of the kingdom: the former of these enters the county from Wiltshire, between Ashdown Park and Ashbury; and proceeds by Uffington Castle before mentioned, Letcombe Castle, Cuckhamsley, over the Ridge Way, and East Ilsley, down to Streatley upon the Thames. The Portway Road enters this county at Idston, passes close by Ablebury, and from thence, in an eastward direction, passes the south end of the town of Wantage, and through the parishes of East Hindred, towards the Thames, between Wallingford and Streatley.

In the Saxon times Wantage was a place of some consequence, and a royal residence, having been
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with the surrounding country, the patrimony of the West Saxon Kings. The manor was bequeathed by Alfred to his wife Ealswith, daughter of Ethelred King of Mercia. When the Norman survey was taken it was part of the royal demesne.

Alfred, or Ælfred, the Great, king of England, the fifth and youngest son of Æthelwolf, king of the West Saxons, was born at Wantage, in the year 849. He distinguished himself, during the reign of his brother Ethelred, in several engagements against the Danes ; and upon his death succeeded to the crown, in the year 871, and the twenty-second of his age. At his ascending the throne he found himself involved in a dangerous war with the Danes, and placed in such circumstances of distress as called for the greatest valour, resolution, and all the other virtues with which he was adorned. The Danes had already penetrated into the heart of his kingdom, and before he had been a month upon the throne, he was obliged to take the field against those formidable enemies. After many battles gained on both sides, he was at length reduced to the greatest distress, and was entirely abandoned by his subjects. In this situation, Alfred, conceiving himself no longer a king, laid aside all marks of royalty, and took shelter in the house of one who kept his cattle. He retired afterwards to the Isle of Æthelingey in Somersetshire, where he built a fort for the security of himself and family, and the few faithful servants who repaired thither to him. When he had been about a year in this retreat, having been informed that some of his subjects had routed a great many of the Danes, killed their chiefs and taken their magical standard, he issued his letters giving notice where he was, and inviting his nobility to come and consult with him. Before he came to a final determination, Alfred, putting on the habit of a harper, went into the enemy's camp, where, without suspi-

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cion, he was every where admitted, and had the honour to play before their princes. Having thereby acquired an exact knowledge of their situation, he returned secretly to his nobility, whom he ordered to their respective homes, there to draw together each man as great a force as he could ; and upon a day appointed there was a general rendezvous at the great wood, called *Selwood*, in Wiltshire. This affair was transacted so secretly and expeditiously, that in a little time, the king, at the head of an army, approached the Danes, before they had the least intelligence of his design. Alfred, taking advantage of the surprise and terror they were in, fell upon them and totally defeated them at *Æthendune*, now *Eddington*. Those who escaped fled to a neighbouring castle, where they were soon besieged, and obliged to surrender at discretion. Alfred granted them better terms than they could expect : he agreed to give up the whole kingdom of the East Angles to such as would embrace the Christian religion, on condition they should oblige the rest of their countrymen to quit the island, and, as much as it was in their power, prevent the landing of any more foreigners. For the performance thereof he took hostages ; and when in pursuance of the treaty, Guthrum, the Danish captain, came, with thirty of his chief officers, to be baptized, Alfred answered for him at the font, and gave him the name of *Æthelstan*, and certain laws were drawn up betwixt the King and Guthrum for the regulation and government of the Danes settled in England. In 884 a fresh number of Danes landed in Kent, and laid siege to Rochester ; but the king coming to the relief of that city, they were obliged to abandon their design. Alfred had now great success ; which was chiefly owing to his fleet, an advantage of his own creating. Having secured the sea coasts, he fortified the rest of the kingdom with castles and walled towns ; and he besieged and recovered

covered from the Danes the city of London, which he resolved to repair, and keep as a frontier.

After some years respite, Alfred was again called into the field : for a body of Danes, being worsted in the west of France, came with a fleet of 250 sail on the coast of Kent : and having landed, fixed themselves at Appletree : shortly after, another fleet of eighty vessels coming up the Thames, the men landed and built a fort at Middleton. Before Alfred marched against the enemy, he obliged the Danes, settled in Northumberland and Essex, to give him hostages for their good behaviour. He then moved towards the invaders, and pitched his camp between their armies, to prevent their junction. A great body, however, moved off to Essex ; and crossing the river, came to Farnham in Surrey, where they were defeated by the king's forces. Meanwhile the Danes settled in Northumberland, in breach of treaty, and notwithstanding their hostages given, equipped two fleets ; and, after plundering the northern and southern coasts, sailed to Exeter, and besieged it. The king as soon as he received intelligence, marched against them ; but before he reached Exeter, they had got possession of it. He kept them, however, blocked up on all sides ; and reduced them at last to such extremities, that they were obliged to eat their horses, and were even ready to devour each other. Being at length rendered desperate, they made a general sally on the besiegers ; but were defeated, though with great loss on the king's side ; the remainder of this body of Danes fled into Essex, to the fort they had built there, and to their ships. Before Alfred had time to recruit himself, another Danish leader, whose name was Laf, came with a great army out of Northumberland, and destroyed all before him, marching on to the city of Werheal in the west, which is supposed to be Chester, where they remained the rest of that year. The year following they

they invaded North Wales ; and after having plundered and destroyed every thing, they divided : one body returning to Northumberland, another into the territories of the East Angles : from whence they proceeded to Essex, and took possession of a small island called *Meresig*. Here they did not long remain ; for having parted, some sailed up the river Thames, and others up the Lea road ; where drawing up their ships, they built a fort not far from London, which proved a great check upon the citizens, who went in a body and attacked it, but were repulsed with great loss : at harvest time the king himself was obliged to encamp with a body of troops in the neighbourhood of the city, in order to cover the reapers from the excursions of the Danes. As he was one day riding by the side of the river Lea ; after some observation, he began to think that the Danish ships might be laid quite dry : this he attempted, and succeeded ; so that the Danes deserted their forts and ships, and marched away to the banks of the Severn, where they built a fort, and wintered at a place called *Quathrig*. Such of the Danish ships as could be got off, the Londoners carried into their own road ; the rest they burnt and destroyed.

Alfred enjoyed a profound peace during the three last years of his reign, which he chiefly employed in establishing and regulating his government, for the security of himself and his successors, as well as the ease and benefit of his subjects in general. After a troublesome reign of 28 years, he died October 28th, 900 ; and was buried in the parish church of Little Driffield, in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

All our historians agree in distinguishing him as one of the most valiant, wise, and best of kings that ever reigned in England ; and it is also generally allowed, that he not only digested several particular laws still in being, but that he laid the first foundation of our present happy constitution.

tion. There is great reason to believe that we are indebted to this prince for trials by juries ; and the doomsday book, which is preserved in the Exchequer, is thought to be no more than another edition of Alfred's book of Winchester, which contained a survey of the kingdom. It is said also, that he was the first who divided the kingdom into shires : what is ascribed to him is not a bare division of the country, but the settling a new form of judicature ; for after having divided his dominions into shires, he subdivided each shire into three parts, called *trythings*. There are some remains of this ancient division in the ridings of Yorkshire, the laths of Kent, and the three parts of Lincolnshire. Each trything was divided into hundreds or wapentakes ; and these again into tythings, or dwellings of ten householders : each of these householders stood engaged to the king, as a pledge for the good behaviour of his family, and all the ten were mutually pledges of each other ; so that if any one of the tythings was suspected of an offence, if the head-boroughs or chiefs of the tything would not be security for him, he was imprisoned ; and if he made his escape, the tything and hundred were fined to the king. Each shire was under the government of an earl, under whom was the rieve, his deputy ; since, from his office, called shire-rieve, or sheriff. And so effectual were these regulations, that it is said he caused bracelets of gold to be hung up in the highways, as a challenge to robbers, and they remained untouched.

In private life, Alfred was the most amiable man in his dominions ; of so equal a temper, that he never suffered either sadness or unbecoming gaiety to enter his mind ; but appeared always of a calm, yet cheerful disposition, familiar to his friends, just even to his enemies, kind and tender to all. He was a remarkable economist of his time, and Asserius has given us an account of the method he took
for

for dividing and keeping an account of it: he caused six wax candles to be made, each of twelve inches long, and of as many ounces weight; on the candles the inches were regularly marked, and having found that one of them burnt just four hours, he committed them to the care of the keepers of his chapel, who from time to time gave him notice how the hours went: but as in windy weather the candles were wasted by the impression of the air on the flame, to remedy this inconvenience he invented lanterns, there being then no glass in his dominions.

This prince, we are told, was twelve years of age before a master could be procured in the western kingdom to teach him the alphabet; such was the state of learning when Alfred began to reign. He had felt the misery of ignorance; and determined even to rival his cotemporary Charlemagne in the encouragement of literature. He is supposed to have appointed persons to read lectures at Oxford, and is thence considered as the founder of that university. By other proper establishments, and by a general encouragement to men of abilities, he did every thing in his power to diffuse knowledge throughout his dominions. Nor was this end promoted more by his countenance and encouragement, than by his own example and his writings.—For notwithstanding the lateness of his initiation, he had acquired extraordinary erudition; and, had he not been illustrious as a king, he would have been famous as an author. His works are, 1. *Breviarum quoddam collectum ed Legibus Troganorum*, lib. I. A Breviary collected out of the laws of the Trojans, Greeks, Britons, Saxons, and Danes; in one book. Leland saw this book in the Saxon tongue, at Christchurch in Hampshire. 2. *Visi Saxonum Leges*, lib. I. The laws of the West Saxons, in one book. Pitts tells us, that it is in Bennet-College Library, at Cambridge. 3. *Instituta quaedam*, lib. I. Certain Institutes, in one book. This is mentioned by Pitts,

and seemed to be the second capitulation with Guthrum. 4. *Contra Judices iniquos*, lib. I. An Invective against Unjust Judges, in one book. 5. *Acta Magistratuum suorum*, lib. I. Acts of his Magistrates, in one book. This is supposed to be the book of judgments mentioned by Horne; and was, in all probability a kind of reports, intended for the use of succeeding ages. 6. *Regum Fortunæ variæ*, lib. I. The Various Fortunes of Kings, in one book. 7. *Dicta Sapientum*, lib. I. The Sayings of Wise Men, in one book. 8. *Parbolæ et Sales*, lib. I. Parables and pleasant Sayings, in one book. 9. *Collectiones Chronicorum*, Collections of Chronicles. 10. *Epistolæ ad Wulfsigium Episcopum*, lib. I. Epistles to Bishop Wulsig, in one book. 11. *Manuale Meditationum*. A Manual of Meditations.— Besides these original works, he translated many authors from the Latin, &c. into the Saxon language, viz. 1. Bede's History of England. 2. Paulinus Orosinus's History of the Pagans. 3. St. Gregory's Pastoral, &c. The first of these, with his prefaces to the others, together with his laws, were printed at Cambridge, 1644. His laws are likewise inserted in Spelman's Councils. 4. *Boetius de Consolatione*, lib. V. Boetius's Consolations of Philosophy, in five books. Dr. Plot tells us King Alfred translated it at Woodstock, as he found in a MS. in the Cotton Library. 5. *Æsopi Fabulæ*, Æsop's Fables: which he is said to have translated from the Greek both in Latin and Saxon. 6. *Psalterium Davidicum*, lib. I. David's Psalter, in one book. This was the last work the king attempted, death surprising him before he had finished it; it was however completed by another hand, and published at London in 1649, in quarto, by Sir John Spelman. Several others are mentioned by Malmsbury; and the old History of Ely asserts, that he translated the Old and New Testaments.

The life of this great king was first written by Asserius Menevensis; and first published by Archbishop

bishop Parker, in the old Saxon character, at the end of his edition of Hassingham's history, printed in 1674, fol.

The learned Joseph Butler, bishop of Durham, was born at Wantage, in the year 1692. He died at Bath in 1752, when his remains were carried to Bristol, and interred in the abbey church.

In Sparsholt Church, about three miles west from Wantage, are some very ancient monuments. The effigies of a knight templar in wood lies on the floor, formerly placed upon an ancient altar tomb, in the middle of the chapel. In the south wall, under arches, are two altar tombs, on which are two female figures in wood. Leland, in his Itinerary, says "at Sparsholt lyeth one of the Orchards honourably buried in a chapel annexed, hard to the side of the parochie church, having a chauntry and on eche side of him lyeth a wife of his. Ther is a comune saying, that one of them was a duchess and the other a countess; but this saying hath little appearance of truth."

On the floor are several grave stones with brass figures, but their inscriptions are not legible. The doors of the church have circular Saxon arches.

About four miles from Wantage, upon our road, are the villages of EAST and WEST HENDRED.—The former, though now consisting only of about 150 houses, was at the dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII. a considerable market town. The parish contains five manors, four of which belonged to religious houses. The church is a handsome fabric, in which are several memorials of the Eystons.

In the reign of Edward I. John Paternoster held a virgate of land in this parish, by the service of saying a paternoster every day for the king's soul. The land is still called Paternoster Bank, upon the road leading to West Hendred.

In the parish Church of HARWELL, three miles

from East Hendred, there is a tablet, recording the singular benefaction of Christopher Elderfield, an eminent divine, who was a native of this parish, and died in 1652 : he gave lands for the purpose of purchasing, in the spring of every year, two milch cows, to be given to two of the poorest men in the parish of Harwell (burthened with families) for their sustentation.

The trustees of the charity have not been able to carry into effect the benevolent intentions of the founder, from the impossibility of a poor man's procuring pasture for a cow in this parish, where the land is chiefly arable. They therefore purchase two cows or oxen in winter, kill them, and distribute the meat among the poor. In this parish there is an almshouse for six poor widows, founded by a lady of the name of Jennings, in 1715, and a school for the education of 12 poor children, supported by the rents of an estate given by Mr. Anthony Leder.

At BRIGHTWELL, in the hundred of Moreton, on the left of our road, about two miles before we reach Wallingford, there was formerly a castle. It was delivered by King Stephen to Henry II. then Duke of Normandy, pursuant to an agreement made between them, when the peace was concluded at Wallingford, and probably was then demolished.

WALLINGFORD.

“ The town of Wallingford hath been a very notable thing and well waulled. The ditch of the town and the crest were on the waulles stood be yet manifestly perceived and begin from the castelle, going in compace a good mile and more, and so cometh to Wallingford bridge, a large thing of stone over the Tamise. There remain yet the names of these streets among others: Tamise-street, Fish-street, Bread-street, Wood-street, Goldsmith's-row. By the patents and donations of Edmund earl of Cornwall, and lord of the honor

honor of Wallingford, there were 14 parish churches in Wallingford, and there be men alive that can shew the places and cemeteries wherein they all stood. At this time there be but three pore parish churches in the town. There was a priory of black monks, a cell to St. Alban, suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey, standing hard within the west gate of Wallingford. The town and the castle were sore defaced by the Danes wars. Yet they metely reflourished in the time of Richard king of the Romans and earl of Cornwal, brother to King Henry the Third. This Richard did much cost on the castle. It joins to the north-gate of the town, and has three dykes, large and deep, and well-watered.—About each of the two first dykes, as upon the crest of the ground, cast out of them runnith an embattled wall now sore in ruin, and for the most part defaced. All the goodly buildings with the towers and dungeon be within the third dyke. There is also a collegiate chapel among the buildings within the third dyke. Edmund earl of Cornwall, son to Richard king of the Romans, was the founder and endower of this college, which one told me was augmented by Edward the black prince. There is a dean, four priests, six clerks, and four choristers; the late dean, before Dr. London that now is, built a fair stone steeple at the west end of the chapel.”—*Leland's Itinerary*.

Wallingford is a very ancient borough and market town, situated on the banks of the Thames, on the road from Reading to Oxford. The name of the town is said to be derived from the British word Guallen, or the Roman Vallum, both signifying a place surrounded by a wall or fortifications, and its ford over the Thames. Among other evidences of its having been occupied by the Romans, is to be mentioned the discovery, at various times, of coins and other antiquities of that people. Mr. Gough observes, in his additions to Camden, “ that the
outer

outer work of the castle is evidently Roman, and in a fragment of the wall, at the entrance, the stones are laid herring-bone fashion, just as in the walls of Silchester." And adds, "that a manuscript note now in his possession, in the hand-writing of Mr. Gale, asserts that many coins of Gordian, Posthumus, Victorinus, and the Tetrici, were dug up in the town of Wallingford, in August 1726, and afterwards some of Vespasian and Gallienus."

In the year 1006 this town was destroyed, but appears to have been soon afterwards rebuilt, and in 1013 was visited by Swain king of Denmark. In the reign of Edward the Confessor Wallingford was a royal borough, in which there were 276 houses, paying gabel tax to the crown.

At the time of the Norman invasion the castle was possessed by Wigod, a powerful Saxon, and it appears to have been repaired and considerably enlarged by William the Conqueror, eight houses having been, according to the doomsday-book, demolished to make room for alterations. William is said to have encamped at Wallingford, after the defeat of Harold; having being defeated by the before mentioned Wigod, and here he received the submission of Archbishop Stigand and the principal English barons, before he proceeded to London.

In the wars between Stephen and the Empress Maud the castle was fortified in behalf of the latter by Brian Fitz Count, who then possessed it. The empress found a secure retreat here after her escape from Oxford, and Stephen several times besieged the castle without success. At length proposals were made for an accommodation between the adverse parties, and a peace was concluded before the walls of Wallingford.

Henry II. upon his accession to the throne, took possession of the honor and castle of Wallingford, where on the following Easter he held a great council

cil of the bishops and barons, in order to receive their oaths of allegiance to him and his heirs.

In the reign of King John Wallingford Castle was several times the place of meeting between him and the discontented barons. Leland describes the castle as having in his time "three dykes, large, deep, and well watered : about each of the two first dikes," says he, "are embattled waulles sore yn ruine, and for the most part defaced. All the goodly buildings with the toures and dungeon be within the three dikes." Camden, speaking of this castle, says, "Its size and magnificence used to strike me with amazement, when I came thither a lad from Oxford : it being a retreat for the students of Church. It is environed with a double wall and a double ditch, and in the middle, on a high artificial mount, stands the citadel ; in the ascent to which, by steps, I have seen a well of immense depth." The buildings of the keep, comprising two dungeons or prisons, were standing in the year 1555.

At the commencement of the civil war between Charles I. and his parliament, Wallingford Castle was repaired and garrisoned for the king. It was not surrendered till nearly the close of the war, and about four years afterwards, in 1653, was so completely demolished, and the materials carried away, that at present there is scarcely a vestige of the buildings to be seen. Part of a wall towards the river being all that remains of this ancient and celebrated castle. The Duke of Schomberg, who was eminent for his knowledge of military tactics, after having viewed the keep with great attention, declared that he could so fortify it in a little time that it would be impossible for an enemy to approach it ; and that he scarcely knew any place in the kingdom that might be made so secure as this in the time of danger or distress : the keep is now overgrown with trees.

Wallingford at present contains only three churches :

St.

St. Mary's, St. Leonard's, and St. Peter's. During the siege of the town in 1646, the two latter were laid in ruins. St. Leonard's was repaired and opened for divine service, about the year 1704. St. Peter's was rebuilt about forty years ago, by the exertions of Sir William Blackstone, who erected the spire, which is of a very singular form, at his own expence.

Just within the west gate of the town there was anciently a convent of Benedictine Monks, founded in the reign of William the Conqueror, by the abbot of St. Albans. It was suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey, 1535, who procured a grant of it for his New College at Oxford, but on his attainder it reverted to the crown.

Of the ancient college mentioned by Leland, as being within the walls of the castle, the clerk's lodging still remains, and is occupied as a dwelling house; the priest's lodging is inhabited by cottagers.

Near the south gate, without the town, there was an hospital for poor men and women as early as the beginning of the reign of Edward I. and upon its suppress in 1535, its revenues were valued at 6*l.* per annum.

At present there are six almshouses for six poor women, who are allowed three shillings and two-pence each per week.

According to a passage in Domesday Book, it appears that there was then 276 houses in this town, yielding a tax of 11*l.* and this number continued to encrease until the year 1348, when the town was visited by the plague, which swept away great numbers of the inhabitants. But the principal occasion of the decay of Wallingford was, the turning off the Gloucester road, by the bridges erected at Abingdon and Dorchester, by which a great part of its trade was removed to those places and their neighbourhood. By the zealous exertions of Sir
William

William Blackstone abovementioned, who was then their representative, two new turnpike roads were formed some years ago ; one opening a communication between Oxford and Reading, and the other leading to Wantage, through the vale of White Horse. These roads have contributed much to the restoration of the business of the town, and its consequent improvement. It at present consists of two principal streets ; and, according to the returns made to parliament in 1801, there were 362 houses and 1744 inhabitants, whose principal employment is in agriculture and malt-making. This trade is in a very flourishing state ; the demand amounting to upwards of 150,000 bushels annually.

Wallingford is a market town by prescription, and the markets are on Tuesday and Friday : over the market-house is a Town-Hall, where the sessions for the borough are held, and according to tradition the assizes for the county have also been held here.

This town was incorporated by James I. The corporation consists of a mayor and five aldermen (who are justices of the peace within the borough) a town-clerk, and other inferior officers, chosen out of the burgesses, who are 18 in number.

Wallingford has sent members to parliament from the earliest period of parliamentary history. They are chosen by the corporation and inhabitants paying scot and lot, the number of voters amount to about 160.

Leland in his itinerary records that Richard, abbot of St. Alban's, was a native of this place. He was a famous mathematician, and the inventor of a clock, that shewed not only the course of the sun, moon, and principal stars, but also the ebbing and flowing of the sea. This machine, the most ingenious of the kind then in England, he presented to the abbey church.

The Free School at Wallingford was founded by
Walter

Walter Bigg, an alderman of London, in 1659, and endowed by him with 10l. per annum.

Wallingford Bridge, over the Thames, is of great antiquity. It is a substantial stone structure, consisting of 19 arches.

About two miles south from Wallingford is CHOLSEY FARM, which was formerly reputed to be the largest and most compact in England; the rent amounting to 1000l. annually.

The Great Barn, in which the abbot of Reading, to whom the manor belonged, deposited his tithes, is yet standing. It measures 101 yards in length, and eighteen in breadth, and eighteen in breadth. The roof is supported by seventeen pillars on each side. They are four yards in circumference, and in the centre rise to a great height, but next the walls are not more than eight feet high.

Journey from Hungerford to Oxford; through Great Shefford, Farnborough, and Abingdon.

Two miles from Hungerford we pass through NEWTON, a large village, one of the four tithings in Hungerford parish.

Three miles from hence, on the left of our road, is the village of *Great or West Shefford*, in the hundred of Kentbury Eagle. The principal and scholars of Brazen-Nose College, in Oxford, are patrons of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury. The advowson was purchased by the College, of Mr. Lenton, who purchased it of Sir George Browne, the lord of the manor in 1708.

King Charles I. was quartered here on the 19th of November 1644.

About a mile to the right hand of our road is *East Shefford*, in the same hundred. The ruins of the ancient mansion-house yet remain, and exhibit the arms of Besils on the stone work of some of the windows. The manor was at a very early period possessed by the family of Fettyplace, one of whom married

married the heiress of Besils, and rebuilt the manor-house here.

In the parish Church there is a handsome monument, with alabaster figures, of a man in armour, and a female, without any inscription or coat of arms. In the window there is some painted glass, representing the arms of Fettyplace, and the figures of saints.

About three miles from hence, on the right of our road, is the parish of *Chaddleshworth*, in which is situated Woolley Park, the seat of the Rev. Philip Wroughton. The house was originally built by Bartholomew Tipping, Esq. 1690, but has been considerably altered and improved by the present proprietor, from designs of Mr. Jeffery Wyatt.

A school was founded in 1720 at Chaddleshworth, by Mr. William Saunders, for the education of eight poor children, two of Chaddleshick, two of Brightwalton, two of Leckhamsted, one of Fawley, and one of Great Shefford : the children are cloathed and apprenticed out of the funds of the charity. Mrs. Susan Winn, the sister of Mr. Saunders, also left 10*l.* per annum for educating ten poor children of Chaddleshworth.

At a place anciently called Ellenfordesmere, in the parish of Chaddleshworth, near Lambourne, there was an hermitage in very early times. In the year 1160 a priory for regular canons of the order of St. Austin was founded upon the spot where the hermitage had stood, by Ralph de Chaddleshworth, who dedicated it to the honour of St. Margaret. This priory was afterwards called Poghill, and in the time of Edward IV. was endowed with 50*l.* per annum. It was one of the smaller monasteries dissolved by Cardinal Wolsey, and the annual value was then 71*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*

From Chaddleshworth we continue our route through Farnborough, without meeting with any remarkable object of curiosity.

About three miles east from Farnborough is *East Ilsley*, or *Market Ilsley*, anciently Hieldesley, or Hildesley, in the hundred of Compton, a small market town, situated on a gentle eminence in a pleasant valley, in the centre of a range of downs, which extend across the county from Aston to Wantage.

The market is on Wednesdays, and there are two fairs on the days mentioned in our list. That on the 26th August is a large sheep fair. This town is indeed famous for its sheep market, which, next to that of the metropolis, is supposed to be the largest in England. It commences on the Wednesday in Easter week yearly, and continues to be held every alternate Wednesday till Midsummer. This market of late years has become of the first importance : not less than 25,000 sheep having been sometimes sold in one day. The annual average is upwards of 250,000 comprising lambs, hogs, wethers, and ewes. These are principally bought by the graziers coming from the counties of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, who feed them for the London market.

At West Ilsley, about a mile and a half to the north-west of East Ilsley, there are two extensive breweries, the beer of which has acquired considerable celebrity,

About four miles south-east from East Ilsley, pleasantly situated on a hill, is *Aldworth* or *Alder*, a small village of very remote origin. It is supposed by Hearne to have been a settlement in the time of the Romans. At the time of taking the Norman survey the manor of Aldworth belonged to Theodoric the goldsmith ; it afterwards formed part of the possessions of the family of *De la Beche*, who flourished here in the reigns of the second and third Edwards. The Mansion-house was situated on an eminence near the village, and in the 12th of Edward III. was fortified : not the least remains of this structure are

are now existing : its site is designated by the appellation of Beche Farm.

The Church is a very ancient structure, and has become celebrated for its ancient monuments. These are nine in number ; three of them situated on the north side, three on the south side, and some in the centre of the church, between the octangular pillars that support the roof. The tombs on the north and south sides are disposed under enriched arches, ornamented with pilaster columns, and pinnacles. The effigies of six knights in armour, elegantly carved in stone, lie in different positions on the upper part of the tomb ; the seventh is a person in a common habit, the remaining two are females. They are supposed to represent the De la Beche family, and appear to have been executed in the fourteenth century. The workmanship is remarkably fine ; and the attitude and expression of such of the figures as remain perfect exceedingly graceful and appropriate.

In the church-yard there is a yew tree of immense size. The trunk measuring nine yards in circumference, at upwards of four feet from the ground. The branches spread to a considerable distance and rise to a great height.

At Steventon, about six miles from Farnborough, there was formerly an alien priory of black monks, a cell to the abbey of Bec Harlewin in Normandy, to which monastery the manor had been given by King Henry I. It was afterwards granted to the abbot and convent of Westminster.

Having already described the town of Abingdon, through which we next pass, we shall proceed from thence to *North or Lawrence Hinksey*, commonly called *Ferry Hinksey*, a small village, about a mile before we reach Oxford. It appears to have been anciently called *Hengistesigge*, from its elevated situation : the exact meaning of the word, as defined by a modern antiquary, being “ a path-

way on the side of a hill." In the parish Church, which is an ancient low structure, with a single doorway of Saxon architecture, there is a memorial for Thomas Willis, Gent. who lost his life in the royal cause at the siege of Oxford, August 4, 1643. On the monument of William Finmore, of Saint John's College, who died in 1646, is an epitaph with this quaint beginning: "Reader, look to thy feet: honest and loyal men are sleeping under them. Here lies, &c." In the church-yard is an ancient cross, with a tall fluted shaft. By a charter granted in the year 955, by King Edwy, both Ferry Hinksey and South Hinksey, were given to the abbey at Abingdon, though neither of their names are mentioned in Domesday. John Piers, archbishop of York, was a native of South Hinksey.

About three miles to the north-west of Oxford is *Witham* or *Wightham*, in the hundred of Hormer, a small decayed village, where in ancient times there was a nunnery, originally founded at Abingdon by the sister of King Ceadwall, and afterwards removed hither. It was deserted by the nuns during the war between Offa, king of the Mercians, and Kinewulf, king of the West Saxons, in consequence of a castle having been built at Witham. The nunnery was never afterwards inhabited.

The village is situated at the foot of a hill, on the summit of which the vestiges of the castle above-mentioned are still to be discovered. The battle, through which Offa became master of this fortress, appears to have been fought at a place called Sandfield, in the neighbourhood, where, according to Hearne, in his *Liber Niger*, armour, swords, and human bones, have been found.

Witham Church is a small building, with a boarded roof, supported by three wooden arches. Against the wall on each side the nave is a series of grotesque ornaments in stone, resembling human heads,

with

with caps similar to these worn by canons regular of the order of St. Augustine.

In the north window, near the west end of the nave, are the portraits of Edward II. and his Queen, supposed to have been placed there by some pilgrims, when travelling to the monarch's shrine at Gloucester. The king is represented with a curled beard, the hair divided and hanging on each side the chin. Each is covered with an open crown fleury.

In this village is an ancient mansion, belonging to the Earl of Abingdon, erected in the reign of Henry VI. by Sir Richard Harcourt, soon after he became possessed of the manor. It is a stone fabric within a moat. It has an embattled tower in the centre, surmounted by two octangular turrets. The hall remains in its original state, and the vestiges of its former splendor are still apparent.

Adjoining to the parish of Witham is *Seacourt* or *Seckworth*, formerly a large town, which, as we are informed by Mr. Wharton, in his History of Kidlington, abounded with inns for the reception of pilgrims, and once maintained the Roman army. It at present consists of but five houses. The foundations and other remains of its buildings may however still be discovered on the brink of the river, which separated the territories of the Attrebatii and Dobuni; and at low water the fragments of a bridge crossing the stream to Binsey are very visible.

About three miles south of Witham is the village of CUMNOR, built on the brow of a hill, commanding an extensive view over the counties of Oxford and Gloucester. The manor belonged, from a very early period, to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. We have before mentioned that the occupation of this estate with the manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Pentecost, alias Rowland, the last abbot,

for life. After his death it became the seat of Anthony Forster, Esq. who lies buried in Cumnor Church. His epitaph represents him to have been a very amiable man, very learned, a great musician, builder, and planter. He has, however, been accused of having been accessory to the murder of the Countess of Leicester at his own house at Cumnor, where she was sent for that purpose by her husband, Sir Richard Verney, one of the Earl's retainers, was the chief agent in this horrid business.

Part of the old mansion is fitted up as a farm-house, the shell of the residue is nearly entire, it is a large monastic building, with a quadrangular court in the centre. A chamber is still shewn called the Dudley Chamber, where the countess is said to have been murdered, and afterwards thrown down stairs, to make it appear her death was accidental. She was buried at Cumnor, but her body was afterwards removed to St. Mary's Church, Oxford. One of the perpetrators of the murder being afterwards apprehended for a different crime confessed this, and was privately destroyed. Sir Richard Verney is reported to have died about the same time in a deplorable manner.

In the south transept of Cumnor Church are two ancient tombs supposed to be those of two abbots of Abingdon. It contains also the monument of Anthony Forster before mentioned, and a memorial for Dr. Benjamin Buckler, editor of the *Stemmata Chicheleiana*, and keeper of the archives in the university of Oxford. In the church-yard is the tomb of Richard Brown, a shepherd, aged 109.

The parishioners who pay vicarial tithes have a custom of repairing immediately after prayers on Christmas-day, to the vicarage house, claiming to be there entertained with four bushels of malt brewed into ale, two bushels of wheat made into bread, and half a hundred weight of cheese ; what
may

may be left, is the next morning, after divine service, given to the poor.

Longworth, about three miles south-east from Cumnor, was the native place of John Fell, a learned divine; he was the son of Samuel Fell, dean of Christ-Church, Oxford, and was born on the 23d of June. 1625. He received his first education at the free-school of Tame, in Oxfordshire, after which he was placed in Christ-Church College, Oxford, under the direction of his father, where he soon made a considerable progress in all sorts of literature; particularly the study of the holy scriptures and the Christian fathers of the four centuries.

When King Charles I. established his head quarters at Oxford, many of the students took up arms for the royal cause, among whom was Mr. Fell, who was promoted to the rank of ensign.

In 1648 having taken his degree in the arts, he was turned out of the University, with many others who refused to acknowledge the then government, upon which he was entertained in the house of Dr. Willis, till the Restoration in 1660, when he was appointed prebendary of Chichester, and soon after promoted to the deanery of Christ-Church, where he remained several years. The principal part of his time was spent in repairing his college, and encouraging learning; for which purpose he gave up almost the whole of his salary.

Burnet gives him a most excellent character. He says his piety as a Christian was equal to his abilities as a scholar; and adds, that some time before his death, being wearied out with study, he lost entirely the use of his intellectual faculties, and became, as it were a child: an affecting consideration for those who boast either of natural or acquired abilities.

He died in the year 1686, and was buried in the Divinity Chapel, near the choir of Christ-Church.

At CHARNEY, a large hamlet in the parish of Longworth, there is a chapel of ease, of Saxon architecture.

ecture. The manor of Charney was anciently part of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Abingdon.

*Journey from Reading to Windsor; through
Wokingham.*

We meet with nothing sufficiently remarkable to arrest the attention of the curious, previous to our arrival at

WOKINGHAM,

Or Oakingham, about seven miles from Reading. This is a large market town, in the hundred of Sunning, situated on the edge of Windsor Forest, partly in Berkshire, and partly in an insulated part of Wiltshire, before mentioned. It consists of several streets, which meeting in the centre, form a spacious area, in which the market house is situated. Over the market house, which is an ancient timber building, is the Town Hall, wherein the public business is transacted.

The government of the town is vested in an alderman, eleven capital burgesses, a high steward, a recorder, and a town-clerk.

The market is on Tuesdays, and is particularly famous for its abundant supply of poultry, which however is soon bought up by the London higlers.

According to the returns under the population act, there were in the year 1801, 1350 inhabitants in this town, who are employed in agriculture, throwing silk, sorting wool, making shoes, gauze, &c.

The Church is a handsome and spacious structure, situated in that part of the parish which is in Wiltshire. The inside of its walls is principally chalk, the outside is composed of flints and rough grout work. In the chancel is a monument to the memory of Thomas Goodwin, bishop of Bath and Wells, who was born in this town in 1517, it has an epitaph, which was written by his son Francis Godwin, bishop of Hereford, the learned author of "*De Præsulibus Angliæ Commentarias*," informing us that he died of an ague in 1590, at his native town,

town, whither he had removed by the advice of his physicians.

Many legacies and charitable donations have been given to this town. Archbishop Laud gave some fee-farm rents, which produced about 40*l.* per annum, which every third year is divided between three poor maidens of the age of eighteen, natives of the town, and members of the church of England, who have served the same master or mistrees for three years together: the other years the income is appropriated to the apprenticing poor boys.

Dr. Charles Palmer bequeathed 20*l.* yearly towards educating twenty poor boys, and qualifying them for apprentices to mechanic trades. A school for twelve girls, called the Maiden, was founded in pursuance of the will of Mrs. Martha Palmer, who died in 1723. The children are directed to call each other sister, and to be taught to read, work, spin, &c. George Staverton in 1661 left a house, now producing twelve guineas per annum, for the purpose of buying a bull, to be baited and killed at Christmas: the meat to be given to the poor, the offal, hide, &c. to be sold, and the produce to be laid out in the purchase of shoes and stockings for poor children.

Thomas Goodwin, D. D. was born at Ockingham, in the year 1517. He was first educated in the free school of this town, from whence he was removed to Magdalen College, Oxford, where having taken his degrees, he entered into holy orders, and became chaplain to the bishop of London, and afterwards dean of Christ's-Church, Oxford; but having imbibed the sentiments of the reformers, he was obliged to resign his deanery in the reign of Queen Mary, during which time he supported himself by following the practice of physic.

On the accession of Queen Elizabeth he was restored to his church preferments, and became one of the most celebrated preachers during that reign.

Her

Her majesty appointed him bishop of Bath and Wells; and this office he enjoyed till his death, which happened in the year 1590, in the seventy-third year of his age.

He was a curious student in Jewish antiquities, having written a book on that subject. He likewise published a catalogue of all the bishops of England, prior to the times in which he lived.

At *Luckley* or *Lockerley Green*, in the parish of Oakingham, there is an hospital for sixteen pensioners, founded pursuant to the will of Henry Lucas, Esq. who died in 1663. The pensioners are allowed fourteen pounds per annum, and are chosen alternately by sixteen parishes in Berkshire, and the like number in Surrey. There is a chaplain, who has apartments in the hospital, and a salary of 70*l.* per annum. The original bequest is said to have amounted to 7,000*l.* of which nearly 2,500*l.* was laid out in the erection of the necessary buildings and the residue invested in the purchase of lands in Bedfordshire. The draper's company of London act as trustees for this charity.

At a small distance from the hospital is *Luckeley House*, the seat of Charles Fyshe Palmer, Esq.

About three miles and a half south-east of Oakingham, near East Hamstead Park, there is a large irregular fortification called CÆSAR'S CAMP, situated on the summit of a hill, and surrounded by a double ditch. At no great distance from this camp is a raised road, nearly 90 feet wide, vulgarly called the Devil's Highway, with a trench on each side, running east and west.

East Hampstead Park was for a long time a royal residence. Richard II. went thither to recreate himself with hunting in August 1381. In 1531 Catherine, the first Queen of Henry VIII. was at East Hampstead Park, when the king sent some of the lords of his council to persuade her to consent to a divorce. King James I. resided here in

1622 and 1623. The manor and park are now the property of the marchioness of Downshire.

Binfield, about three miles from Wokingham, on the left of our road, is a pleasant village, surrounded with elegant seats, and situated in the midst of the tract called the Royal Hunt in Windsor Forest. Mr. Pope, the celebrated poet, spent the early part of his life in this village. It has been said that he was born here ; but Dr. Wilson, the late rector, ascertained that he did not come to Binfield until he was six years of age. The site of Mr. Pope's house is now the residence of Thomas Neate, Esq.

There are several elegant villas in this place ; the beauty of the situation, its vicinity to Windsor, and ready access to the metropolis, having been strong inducements to persons of fortune to fix themselves in so desirable a spot. The most conspicuous of these villas is that of Onesiphorus Elliot Elliot, Esq.

Among the monuments in the parish Church there is one to the memory of Admiral Sir Edward Vernon, who commanded the British fleet at the taking of Pondicherry, and died in 1794 ; and another to the memory of the celebrated female historian Catherine Macaulay Graham, who died at Binfield in 1791.

The parish of Warfield, through which we next pass, presents nothing particularly interesting to the antiquary. In the parish Church are several monuments of the Stavertons, who anciently possessed estates in this parish. At New Bracknell a hamlet in this parish, there are three annual fairs, on the days mentioned in our list.

In the parish Church of Winkfield, two miles from Warfield, there is a tablet, with the figure, engraved on brass, of an aged man distributing bread to the poor, in memory of Thomas Mountague, yeoman of the guards, who died in 1630, aged ninety-two ;

ninety-two ; and the tomb of Thomas Wise, master mason of England, 1685.

The Earl of Ranelagh, in 1710, built a free school for boys, and another for girls, under the same roof, on Winkfield Plain, and endowed them with the manor of Kelleagh in Ireland, and other estates. Thomas Maule, Esq. in 1715, gave 200*l.* to these schools, which was laid out in lands in the parish of Winkfield. Mr. Hatch, who had received his education at the school, gave about the year 1780, the sum of 500*l.* as a grateful acknowledgment for the advantages he had himself received.

In this parish is Cranbourn Lodge, erected by Richard Earl of Ranelagh, paymaster of the forces in the reign of King Charles II. and since occupied successively by Charles Duke of St. Alban's, the Duke of Cumberland his majesty's uncle, and by his late brother the Duke of York ; it is now the seat of the Duke of Gloucester. This lodge is most pleasantly situated, and has an extensive prospect, over a fine plain country. In a spacious chamber in the house are painted and regularly ranged in large pannels, the military dresses of the different corps in the armies of Europe.

Fern Hill, the seat of Francis Knollys, Esq. is pleasantly situated on an eminence. It was formerly the seat of General Clayton, who lost his life in the glorious battle of Dettingen in 1743.

The other principal seats in this parish are Winkfield Place, the property of Stanlake Batson, Esq. Winkfield Park, the property of Thomas Bingley, Esq. and Lovell Hill, the seat of Charles Shard, Esq. Saint Leonard's Hill, the seat of General Harcourt, in the parish of Clewer, is only a short distance from Cranbourn Lodge, and requires a particular notice on account of its delightful situation, and the large plantation of oak and beech, which here form a most agreeable variety. The mansion is situated on the summit of the hill, and was first begun by
the

the Dutchess of Gloucester, when Countess of Walgrave, and greatly improved by his Royal Highness the Duke, and then called Gloucester Lodge. It was purchased by the present proprietor, about the year 1781. The house is elegant, and commands an extensive prospect over the river Thames, and a most beautiful and fertile country. On the side of the hill is a pleasing villa, equally beautiful in its situation and large plantations, for many years the residence of several persons of distinction, until purchased by the Duke of Gloucester, as an appendage or farm to Gloucester Lodge.

In the parish church of Clewer are some indifferent verses on a brass plate, commemorating Martin Expençe, a famous archer, who shot a match against one hundred men, near Bray.

In Sunninghill parish, about six miles south from Windsor, is Sunninghill Park, now the seat of Jeremiah Crutchley, Esq. It was formerly part of the royal demeſne, and inclosed by Charles I. who granted it to the family of Carew.

In the parish Church is a very ancient inscription, on a square pillar, between the nave and the chancel, commemorating the decease of Livingus, a priest.

In this parish there is a chalybeate spring, called Sunning-wells, adjoining to which is a room, where public breakfasts are occasionally held. These meetings were formerly more frequent and better attended than they are at present.

On a hill near the race ground, about a mile from Sunninghill-wells, on *Ascot* Heath, are four barrows. They are on the south side of the turnpike road to Oakingham; the nearest not above 300 yards from the road. They stand south-east by south of each other. The trenches round the large barrows or hillocks are about 12 feet wide, and two deep: from the middle of the trenches to the centres of the tops is about 47 feet; from the outside

of the trenches to the feet of the lesser hillocks about 45 feet, and the hillocks, which have no trenches round them, are quite flat at the top; not above three feet high, and are about 40 feet over.

WINDSOR.

This place is supposed to derive its name from its winding shore, on the south side of the Thames. The Saxon name was *Windlesora*, which in their language expressed winding shore, and this place was called *Windleshora* in a charter granted by Edward the Confessor, wherein it was granted with various other lands to the monastery of Saint Peter Westminster. William the Conqueror, however, being struck with the beauty of its situation, procured a surrender of it, in exchange for some lands in Essex, and here built himself a hunting house.

Windsor, with the adjacent country, is supposed by Camden to have been inhabited by the *Bibroci*, before mentioned and he observes that *Bray* the name of the hundred, very much favours this opinion, because Bribracte in France has suffered the same contraction, and is now called *Bray*. Windsor is supposed by some to be the *Pontes* of Antoninus.

The town is situated on a rising ground, the principal street looks southward over a long and spacious valley, chequered with corn-fields and meadows, interspersed with groves, and watered by the Thames, which glides through the prospect in a transluent and gentle stream; and fetching many windings seems to linger delighted on its way. On the other side the country swells into hills, which are neither craggy nor high, but rise with a gradual ascent, that is covered with perpetual verdure where it is not adorned with trees.

Windsor is frequently distinguished by the appellation *New*, that it may not be confounded with the village of the same name, but of higher antiquity,
about

about two miles distant. The origin of the town we are describing seems to be connected with its castle. It was first incorporated by King Edward I. who invested the inhabitants with several privileges, which were confirmed and enlarged by succeeding monarchs. The town had also a charter from James I. and after the Restoration obtained another from Charles II. which was superseded by his successor, but restored at the Revolution, and has ever since been referred to in the municipal government of the town.

The corporation consists of from twenty-eight to thirty brethren; ten of whom are denominated aldermen; the remainder benchers and burgesses. The mayor and justice are annually chosen from the aldermen; and on the same day two bailiffs are elected from the burgesses; besides these the mayor, bailiffs, &c. are empowered to chuse a high steward, town-clerk, and other subordinate officers.

Windsor sent members to parliament in the 30th year of Edward I. and again in the seventh of Edward II. from that time till the twenty-fifth of Henry VI. we meet with no return: but since that period it has been regularly represented. The right of election was originally vested in the corporation, but this privilege being occasionally contested, in 1690 the liberty of voting was extended to all the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The number of voters amount to about 280.

Under the charter of Edward I. dated 1276, Windsor was for some time the county town; it being thereby granted that the justices itinerant for the county of Berks should hold their assizes at Windsor, and the county gaol, which had before then been at Wallingford, should be removed thither; but this alteration being found very inconvenient, the gaol was, in 1314, removed to Reading.

The town consists of six principal streets, and

several inferior ones. The houses are chiefly of brick, and are in general well built. According to the returns under the population act in 1801, there were then 540 houses in this town, and 3122 inhabitants.

The Church is an ancient and spacious fabric, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It contains several handsome monuments. That of James Pagett, Esq. one of the barons of the Exchequer, who died in 1588, has busts of himself and his Lady Nazareth, daughter of Robert Harris, of Reading. The monument of the learned Sir Thomas Reeve, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who resided at Windsor, and died in 1736, was erected at the expence of Dr. Mead. It is adorned with busts of the Chief Justice and his Lady, by Scheemaker; the monument of Topham Foot, Esq. who died in 1712, is adorned with a bust of the deceased by the same artist.

The Guildhall is a magnificent building, supported with columns and arches of Portland stone. The room wherein the corporation meet for the transaction of public business is spacious and convenient. It is adorned with portraits of the sovereigns of England, from James the First to Queen Anne; and also with those of George Prince of Denmark, Prince Rupert, Archbishop Laud, &c. In a niche, on the north side of this structure, is a statue of Queen Ann, dressed in her royal robes, and supporting the globe and sceptre. Beneath in the frieze of the entablature of the lesser columns and arches is a Latin inscription to this effect :

“Erected in the 6th year of her reign,
1707,

“Sculptor ! thy art is vain : it cannot trace
The semblance of the matchless Anna's grace ;
Thou may'st as soon to high Olympus fly,
And carve the model of some deity.”

S. Chapman, Mayor.
This

This was executed at the charge of the corporation, in gratitude to the Queen, who always resided at Windsor during the summer. In another niche, on the south side, is the statue of Prince George of Denmark, her majesty's consort, in a Roman military habit, erected by Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1713.

In the year 1706 a neat Free School was erected on the north side of the church, for thirty boys and twenty girls, who are cloathed and educated, partly by subscription, and partly by the income arising from several legacies.

In the year 1503, J. Thomson and W. Hundred, chaplain; and J. Combe, gent. founded an hospital in Sheet Street, for eight poor men and women, which in 1510 was endowed by Thomas Brotherton, alias Hunt, and since by Richard Gallis. The revenue of this almshouse at present amounts to 35l. per annum. The pensioners, who are now twelve in number, receive each 10s. per quarter.

Near the Pitfields are four other almshouses, founded and endowed by Richard Reeve, gent. in 1676; the poor in these houses receive fifty shillings per annum each.

There is another almshouse in Park Street, without endowment, for twelve poor men, who are supported by the parish.

Archbishop Laud gave 50l. per annum to the parish of Windsor, to be employed two following years in apprenticing poor boys, and every third year in giving marriage portions to poor maidens of the town of Windsor. This charity was augmented by the bequest of 1000l. from Theodore Randue, Esq. and his executors, by virtue of a discretionary power vested in them, added a further sum of 250l. with which joint sum an estate was purchased, out of the rents of which 50l. per annum is thus disposed of: ten pounds each, two following years to five poor boys, who have been apprenticed by Archbishop

Laud's charity and duly served their apprenticeships ; and every third year the same sum to three maidens born in Windsor, that have faithfully lived in one service during three whole years.

In 1730, Mrs. Barbara Jordan, gave 11. per annum each to three old maids, not receiving alms. In 1732, Mrs. Arabella Reeve, gave the interest of 500l. to six poor widows, lame or blind, being natives and inhabitants of New Windsor.

There are several other charities belonging to the parish, and the overseers receive 120l. per annum from the crown, by royal grant, in lieu of waste lands at various times enclosed in the parks.

An hospital for sick soldiers, capable of accommodating about 40 men, was erected at Windsor, in the year 1784. There are barracks near the town for 650 infantry, and 220 cavalry, including officers horses.

The principal boast of the town of Windsor is its ancient and beautiful Castle, originally built by William the Conqueror, soon after his being settled on the throne of this kingdom, on account of its healthful and pleasant situation, and probably no less as a place of security and strength in the beginning of his reign. It was greatly improved by his son Henry I. who added many buildings, and surrounded the whole with a strong wall for its greater strength and beauty. In 1105 this monarch certainly kept his Christmas here, and his Easter in 1107. He at length removed his court to New Windsor, and for the first time, kept the festival of Whitsuntide at Windsor Castle in 1110. Henry II. held a council here in 1170, and King John during his contest with the barons, made it his place of residence. Our great King Edward III. was born here. This prince caused the ancient building to be entirely taken down, inclosed the whole with a strong wall or rampart of stone, and erected the present stately castle, and the chapel of St. George ;
and

and here also he instituted and established the most noble order of the garter.

William of Wickham, afterwards bishop of Winchester, who was principally employed by Edward III. in building this castle, upon its completion caused to be cut upon one of the towers, this ambiguous sentence, "THIS MADE WICKHAM," which was reported to the king, as if that bishop assumed to himself the honour of building this royal castle.— And had not the prelate, by a ready address, assured his royal master, that he intended no meaning derogatory to his sovereign, but only an acknowledgement that this building had made him great in the favour of his prince, and was the cause of his present high station, he had most probably fallen under the displeasure of the monarch by this inscription, which possibly in time might have occasioned a double interpretation.

Great additions were made to the buildings within the castle, in succeeding times by several monarchs, in particular by Henry II. Edward IV. Henry VII. and VIII. Queen Elizabeth, and Charles II. who, soon after the Restoration, entirely repaired the castle, and restored its ancient state and splendour, from the bad effects of plunder and rapine in the preceding times of national disorder.

That Windsor owes much to this prince is certain. He kept his court here most part of his reign in the summer season, and spared no expence to render this princely castle worthy the royal residence; the face of the upper court was entirely changed, and brought into its present order and beauty; the royal lodgings were richly furnished, the windows enlarged, and made regular; a large magazine of arms was disposed in beautiful order, and the several apartments were adorned and decorated by large and beautiful paintings.

King Charles II. left little to be done to this castle, except painting; which was carried on by his successors

cessors James II. and William III. in whose reign the whole was completed. The former of these last-mentioned princes, during his residence at this palace, gave an uncommon spectacle to his subjects, on July 3, 1687, by the public entry of a nuncio from the Pope. But the prince had the mortification to see, that, notwithstanding the ceremony was conducted with much state and outward shew, rather than entertain, the whole procession gave offence to a people too sensible to be deluded by the idle parade of popish pageantry. His grace the Duke of Somerset, then lord of the bed-chamber, in waiting at court, refused to introduce the popish ambassador to his audience, chusing rather to incur his sovereign's displeasure, than perform a task not suited to his high rank, and contrary to the laws of the kingdom. Several additions were made by Queen Anne to this castle, particularly the flight of steps on the east side of the terrace ; the necessary repairs of the castle and the royal apartments were always continued in the reigns of their late Majesties George the First and Second, though the court seldom resided at Windsor. But the principal improvements have been effected by his present Majesty, whose munificent plans for the embellishment of this structure have far exceeded the designs of his predecessors. His Majesty has recently removed his residence from the Queen's Lodge to the Castle. The improvements have been made under the superintendence of James Wyatt, Esq. surveyor general of his Majesty's works, and consist chiefly in the restoration of the Gothic architecture in those parts of the building that had been modernized in the reign of Charles II. The grand staircase, which has lately been completed, is very magnificent ; the roof and lanthorn are highly enriched with gothic tracery ; the chapel of the castle, and other parts of the building, are about to be fitted up in the same stile.

The

The castle is divided into two courts or wards, with a large keep round tower between them, called the middle ward, built on a lofty artificial mount, surrounded with a moat, and formerly separated from the lower ward by a strong wall and draw-bridge. The ascent to the upper apartments is by a long flight of stone steps, guarded by a canon, planted at the top, and levelled at the entrance.

The whole of the buildings occupies upwards of twelve acres of ground. As a place of military strength, however, it is no longer important: the curtain of the tower, upon which are seventeen pieces of cannon, being the only battery now in the castle.

The castle is surrounded by a most noble terrace, faced on all sides by a solid rampart of free-stone, with beautiful and easy slopes to the lower part of the part of the park underneath. This terrace is with justice esteemed the most magnificent walk in Europe, both with regard to the strength and grandeur of the building, and the fine and extensive prospect over the river Thames and the adjacent country on every side, where nature and art vie together in rendering the whole complete. The upper court or yard is a spacious regular square, and contains on the north side the state apartments, and the Chapel and Hall of St. George. The east and south sides, have been lately fitted up for the residence of their Majesties and the royal family.—In the area or middle of this court is erected a noble equestrian statue in copper of Charles the Second in the habit of a Roman Cæsar, on a statuary marble pedestal, curiously carved in basso relievo, with various kinds of fruit, fish, shipping, and other ornaments, to great perfection. Beneath the statue is a curious hydraulic engine, invented by Sir Samuel Morland, who was appointed master mechanicum to the above monarch in 1681.

The keep or round tower, which forms the west side

side of the upper court, is the apartment of the constable or governor, built in the form of an amphitheatre, on the highest part of the mount; the ascent into these lodgings is by a flight of large stone steps; the apartments are noble, and here is a guard-room, or magazine of arms, for the greater state of this officer, who has the entire government of the castle, and whose office is of great antiquity, honour, and power. This mount is neatly laid out in sloping walks round the hill, covered with verdure, and planted with shrubs and flowers. The lower court is larger than the upper, and may be said to be divided into two parts by St. George's Chapel, which stands in the middle.

On the south and west sides of the outer part of this court, are the houses of the alms or poor knights of Windsor. On the north or inner side are the several houses and apartments of the dean and canons of St. George's Chapel, also of the minor canons, clerks, and other officers, of this foundation. In this ward are also several towers belonging to the officers of the crown, when the court is at Windsor; also to the officers of the order of the garter, viz. the Bishop of Winchester prelate, the Bishop of Salisbury chancellor, and Garter king at arms; but the tower of this last officer is at present in decay.

A company of foot-guards constantly do duty here under the command of an officer, but at all times subject to the constable or governor of the castle, to whom alone pertains the sole command of the place or garrison here, as also the magazine of arms, stores, and houses, and who also keeps a court of record in the castle, and is judge of the pleas between parties within the precinct of Windsor Forest. The deputy governor also has neat and commodious apartments at the entrance of the round tower.

The several foundations within the castle are as follow:

1. The Royal College of St. George, which consists

sists of a dean, twelve canons or prebends, seven minor canons, eleven clerks, one organist, one vergier, and two sacrists.

2. The most noble order of the Garter, which consists of the sovereign and twenty-five knights companions.

3. The Alms Knights, who are 18 in number, viz. 13 of the royal foundation, and five of the foundation of Sir Peter le Maire, in the reign of King James I.

On the north side of the chapel are the houses of the dean and canons, which consist of very pleasant and commodious apartments. The dean's house especially has many large and spacious rooms; and in the hall next the cloisters are the arms of the knights of the garter blazoned, and ranged in proper order, according to their installation. The houses of the poor knights are on the south and west sides of the lower court, in the manner, as Camden says, of the Grecian Prytaneum, or residence of those that had deserved well of their country, by a life spent in war, or in the service of the crown, which was the intention of the royal and warlike founder, King Edward III. though of late, and in time of peace, not much attended to.

The usual entrance into the royal apartments, situated on the north side of the castle, is from the upper court or ward, through a handsome vestibule, supported by pillars of the Ionic order, with some antique brass bustos in the several niches; the principal of which are, a Roman vestal, and a slave in the action of picking a thorn out of his foot.

The great stair-case consists of three flights of stone steps, containing twelve on each flight, secured on the right hand by twisting iron balustrades. Here within the dome is represented the story of Phaeton petitioning Apollo for leave to drive the chariot of the sun; and on the stair-case, in large compartments, are the transformation of Phaeton's sisters

ters into poplars, their tears distilling amber from the trees; also the story of Cynus, king of Liguria, who being inconsolable for Phæton's death, was transformed into a swan. Over this, and on the several parts of the ceiling, supported by the Winds, are represented the signs of the Zodiac, with baskets of flowers, beautifully disposed; and at each corner are the elements of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, expressed by cornucopias, birds, zephyrs, flaming censers, water-nymphs, with fishes, and a variety of other representations; also Aurora, with her nymphs in waiting, giving water to her horses. In proper attitudes, in several parts of this staircase, are also represented Comedy, Tragedy, Epic Poetry, Sculpture, Painting, Music and other sciences, and the whole staircase is beautifully disposed, and heightened with gold, and has a view to the back stairs, whereon is painted the story of Meleager and Atalanta. Over the door is a bust of Venus, in black marble; and on the front of the staircase is an oval aperture, adorned with the story of Cephalus and Procris. The painting of the whole staircase was designed and executed by Sir James Thornhill.

The Queen's Guard-chamber is the first apartment into which you enter. This room is completely furnished with fire-arms, guns, bayonets, pikes, bandoleers, &c. beautifully ranged and disposed into various forms, with the star and garter, the royal cypher, and other ornaments intermixed, cut in lime wood. Over the chimney is a full length portrait of Prince George of Denmark, in armour, on horseback, by Dahl; with a view of shipping, by Vandeveld. On the ceiling is Britannia, in the person of Queen Catherine of Portugal, consort to Charles II. seated on a globe, bearing the arms of England and Portugal, with the four quarters of the world, and their respective symbols, attended by deities, presenting their several offerings. The signs of the Zodiac are on the outer part of this beautiful representation. In different

ferent parts of the ceiling are Mars, Venus, Juno, Minerva, and other heathen deities, with zephyrs, cupids and other embellishments properly disposed.

In the Queens Presence Chamber, the ceiling is adorned with a representation of Queen Catherine, attended by Religion, Prudence, Fortitude, and other Virtues. Under a curtain spread by Time, and supported by Zephyrs, is Fame sounding the happiness of Britain; also Justice driving away Sedition, Envy, and other evil genii. Among the pictures in this room are three of the celebrated cartoons of Raphael, removed some years since from Hampton Court, and the following portraits: King Edward III. by Belcamp; King James I. by Vanduyck; Edward the Black Prince, by Belcamp.

Those inestimable productions of human genius, the cartoons of Raphael, are unquestionably the first pieces that merit attention in the collection of paintings in Windsor Castle. They are disposed in the apartments respectively entitled the QUEEN'S PRESENCE CHAMBER, and the KING'S PRESENCE CHAMBER. The subjects represent the following interesting events from the New Testament:

The miraculous Draught of Fishes: Luke Chap V.
 Peter and John healing the Cripple at the Gate of the Temple: Acts, Chap. III.
 St. Paul and Barnabas at Lystra: Acts, Chap. XIV.
 Elymas the Sorcerer struck Blind: Acts, Chap. XIII.
 The death of Ananias: Acts, Chap. V.
 Our Saviour giving the Charge to Peter: John, ch. XXI.
 Paul preaching at Athens: Acts, Chap. XVII.

They were originally designed as patterns for tapestry to adorn the pontifical apartments of Leo the Tenth, at Rome. When finished they were sent to Flanders, and executed in tapestry under the direction of Van Orley, and Michael Coxis. But Leo and Raphael both dying before the work was completed, the tapestry were not carried to Rome

for several years. As for the original designs they remained in the store-room of the manufactory, where, nearly a century after the death of the painter, they were seen by Rubens, who struck with their extraordinary merit, prevailed on Charles I. to purchase and have them brought to England.

At the sale of this monarch's effect, after his death, observes Mr. Ireland, "they were purchased by order of Cromwell, who commissioned one of his officers to bid for them, and publicly to declare the bidding as for his highness. Fifty pounds was the sum offered; and such was the respect or dread of the name of the bidder, that they were instantly knocked down to him; though at the same time it was known unlimited commissions were then in the room from France, Spain, Italy, &c. Much praise is certainly due to the Protector in this transaction; who, although no connoisseur, was well aware of the high value of these works, which he afterwards, in a state exigency, pawned to the Dutch for fifty thousand pounds. They remained in Holland till the Revolution; after which King William ordered them hither, when they were deposited in a gallery, built expressly for their reception at Hampton Court."

These pieces are deservedly celebrated throughout Europe for their unequalled variety of character, matchless expression, and excellence of composition. "Their author" says Mr. Holme, "has frequently been stiled the divine Raphael: but epithets can confer no additional dignity on a name, the simple expression of which as much denotes the PAINTER, as that of *Homer*, the POET." Sir Joshua Reynolds, who perhaps of all others was most capable of appreciating the merit of Raphael, says in his discourses, "the excellence of this extraordinary man lay in the beauty and majesty of his characters, the judicious contrivance of his composition, his

correctness of drawing, purity of taste, powers of invention, and the skilful accomodation of other men's conceptions to his own purposes. Nobody excelled him in that judgment, to which he united his own observations on nature, the energy of MICHAEL ANGELO, and the beauty and simplicity of the antique."

On the ceiling of the Queen's Audience Chamber is Britannia represented in the person of Queen Catherine, in a triumphal car drawn by swans to the Temple of Virtue, attended by Flora, Ceres, Pomona, &c. with other decorations heightened with gold. The tapestry of this room is of a rich gold ground, made at Coblentz in Germany, and presented to Henry VIII. The canopy is of fine English velvet, set up by Queen Anne. The paintings are, William Prince of Orange, by Honthorst, James the First's Queen, Vansomer; Frederick Henry Prince of Orange, Honthorst. Also a fine painting, by Sir William Beechy, representing his Majesty reviewing the third or Prince of Wales's regiment of Dragoon Guards, and the tenth or Prince of Wales's regiment of Light Dragoons. The principal figures are on horseback, finely grouped in the centre, and on the right of the picture. His Majesty is seated on his charger, and is accompanied by the Prince of Wales, who appears giving the word of command; the Duke of York; and the Generals Sir William Fawcett, Dundas, and Goldsworthy. These figures are as large as life, and generally considered as good likenesses. The manœuvring of the troops is in the distance. The size of the picture is 16 feet by 13. It is a very grand and interesting performance.

On the ceiling of the Ball Room is represented, in the character of Perseus and Andromeda, Europe delivered, or made free, by Charles II. On the shield of Perseus is inscribed "Perseus Britannicus;" and Mars, attended by the heavenly deities, y

deities, offering the olive-branch. On the cornice of this chamber is the story of Perseus and Andromeda, the four seasons, and the signs of the zodiac; the whole finely heightened in gold. The tapestry of this room represents the seasons of the year, made at Brussels, and put up by Charles II. In this room is a large silver table and stands, with a glass in a correspondent frame. The paintings are, William Earl of Pembroke, Vansomer; St. John after Correggio, the Countess of Dorset after Vandyck, the Dutchess of Richmond, Vandyck; a Madonna and Duke of Hamilton, Hennaeman.

On the ceiling of the Queen's Drawing Room, is represented the assembly of the gods and goddesses, intermixed with flowers, cupids, &c. This room is also hung with tapestry, representing the twelve months of the year.

The Paintings are Judith and Holifernes, by Guido; a Magdalen, Sir Peter Lely; Minerva and Lady Digby*, Vandyck; De Bray and his family, De Bray. Killigrew and Carew, Vandyck.

On the ceiling of the Queen's Bed Chamber is the Story of Endymion and Diana, from Ovid. The bed of state in this room, was set up by her present Majesty, and is said to have cost 14,000*l*. The paintings are a portrait of the Queen, at full length, with 14 of the royal offspring, in miniature, by

* The extraordinary beauty and singular form of Lady Digby did not exempt her from the attacks of malevolence and envy; and the artist has expressed this circumstance of her history by allegory. A dove is introduced to express her innocence; a serpent, which she handles without fear, to shew her superiority over the envenomed tongue of slander; and the figure of Calumny, double-faced, bound and thrown down on the ground behind her, is demonstrative of her triumph over the malice of her traducers. Her husband, Sir Kenelm Digby, was so enamoured of her charms, that he tried various experiments to preserve them; and among others prevailed on her to feed on capons fed with the flesh of vipers.

West.

West. Six capital landscapes, by Zuccarelli; and two flower pieces, by Young Baptist.

The Room of Beauties, so named from being adorned with a collection of the most celebrated beauties in the reign of Charles II. They are 14 in number, and mostly painted by Sir Peter Lely, at the desire of the Duchess of York: Mrs. Knott, Mrs. Lawson, Lady Sunderland, Lady Rochester, Lady Denham, Lady Denham's sister, Mrs. Middleton, Lady Byron, the Duchess of Richmond, the Countess of Northumberland, Lady Grammont, the Duchess of Cleveland, the Duchess of Somerset, and Lady Ossory.

In the Queen's Dressing-room there is a painting of Anne of Denmark, King James the First's Queen by Jansen. Belonging to this room is a closet, in which is deposited the banner of France, annually delivered there on the 2d of August, by the Duke of Marlborough, by which he holds Blenheim. It contains the portrait of William Duke of Gloucester, by Sir Peter Lely; also a portrait of Cardinal Wolsey. Two heads, finely pencilled by Denner; a pair of landscapes, Teniers; an old woman watering flowers, Gerrard Dow; and the inside of a cottage and a girl playing on a spinnet, Mieris. This closet is not open for public inspection.

In the room called Queen Elizabeth's, or the Picture Gallery, are the following capital paintings, among others:—the Emperor Charles V. after Titian; an Italian market, by Bomboccio; the Battle of Spurs; the Wise men's offering, by Paul Veronese; the two Misers, by Quintin Matsys; a Boy with Puppies, &c. formerly said to have been executed by Murillo, but we are assured by Mr. West that it is a true Giordano; Anne Duchess of York, and Prince Rupert, by Sir Peter Lely; the Angels appearing to the Shepherds, by Nicolo Poussin; the interview between King Henry VIII. and Francis I. king of France; the converted Chinese, by Sir

Godfrey Kneller. This is considered as one of the finest pictures that Kneller ever executed, and the painter himself appears to have had the same opinion; for when any person criticised his more hasty and careless productions, he exclaimed "Pho! Pho! it will not be thought mine: nobody will believe that the same man painted this and the Chinese at Windsor." The angel delivering St. Peter out of prison, by Steenwyck; an Indian market, by Post; the Marquis del Guasto and his family, after Titian; and Rinaldo and Armida, by Romanelli. In this room is a curious amber cabinet, presented by the King of Prussia to Queen Caroline. The china closet is filled with great variety of curious old china, elegantly disposed, and the room finely gilt and ornamented. It also contains the following paintings: Prince Arthur and his two sisters, by Mabun; a woman with a kitten, and a woman squeezing blood out of a sponge.

On the ceiling of the King's Closet is painted the story of Jupiter and Leda. The Paintings in this room are: A man's head, by Raphael; St. Catherine, Guido; a woman's head, Parmegrano; landscape, Breughel; landscape, Teniers; holy family, Van Uden; the creation, Breughel; Queen Henrietta Maria, Vandyck: this exquisite portrait is allowed to be the best female head Vandyck ever painted. Landscape, with figures, Breughel; Martin Luther, Holbein.

On the ceiling of the King's Dressing Room is represented the story of Jupiter and Danae. This apartment contains several fine pictures; the following are the best:

A man's head; Leonardo da Vinci.

Two beautiful landscapes, with figures; Wouvermans. Holstoff, a Dutch merchant; Holbein.

Charles the Second; Russell.

Catharine of Braganza, Charles the Second's Queen; by Sir Peter Lely.

An old lady, with a cowl over her head, said to be the portrait of the Countess of Desmond, and ascribed to Rembrandt.

Nero depositing the ashes of Britannicus ; by Le Sueur.

James Duke of York ; Russel.

The ceiling of the King's Bed-chamber is ornamented with Charles II. in the robes of the garter, under a canopy supported by Time, Jupiter and Neptune holding a wreath of laurel over the monarch's head : also, attended by the deities in different characters, paying obedience to the monarch, are Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, properly represented. The tapestry represents part of the story of Hero and Leander. The paintings in this room are, King Charles II. in armour, when Prince of Wales, by Vandyck ; and Henry Duke of Gloucester his brother.

The ceiling of the King's Drawing-room is an allegorical representation of the Restoration of King Charles II. who is seated on a triumphal car, drawn by horses of the sun, attended by Fame, Peace, and the Polite Arts ; Hercules driving away Rebellion, Sedition, Ignorance, &c. Here is a most magnificent glass of English manufactory, eleven feet by six feet. This apartment contains the following paintings :

Peter, James, and John ; by Michael Angelo.

Queen Mary ; by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Queen Anne ; after Sir Godfrey Kneller.

King William ; by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Our Saviour before Pilate ; Schiavoni.

Her present Majesty ; by Gainsborough du Pont.

His present Majesty ; by Ditto.

St. John.

King George I. after Sir Godfrey Kneller.

St. Stephen stoned ; Rotterman.

Queen Caroline, when Princess of Wales; Sir Godfrey Kneller.

King George II. when Prince of Wales; Ditto.

On the ceiling of the King's Audience chamber is represented the establishment of pure religion in these nations on the Restoration of Charles II. in the characters of England, Scotland, and Ireland, attended by Faith, Hope, and Charity, and the cardinal virtues: Religion triumphs over Superstition and Hypocrisy, who are driven by Cupids from before the face of the church: all these appear in their proper attitudes, and the whole is highly finished.

The furniture, paintings, and embellishments of this room, except the ceiling, are all new. The throne and its appendages are constructed with great taste. The canopy and ornamental parts were wrought under the direction of Mrs. Pawsey, from beautiful paintings, by Miss Moser. The chair of state was executed by Mr. Campbell; and the drawings which ornament the rich gold columns, were from the pencil of Rebecca, under the direction of Mr. West, who painted the medallion with profiles of their Majesties. But the most valuable decorations of this apartment are the seven *Historical Paintings* illustrative of the principal events which distinguished the reign of Edward III. These interesting pictures were executed by command of his Majesty, on whose taste and patronage they reflect peculiar lustre. The whole of them were painted by Mr. West in the years 1787, 1788, and 1789. and represent the following subjects:

THE PASSAGE OF THE RIVER SOMME, August the 25th, 1346. The principal figures in this picture are *King Edward III.* with his crest, a lion, &c. *Lord Chandos*; crest, a saracen's head in profile, proper banded sable. *Earl of Arundel*; crest, a griffin's head, or in a ducal coronet, gules. *Lord Godfrey Harcourt*; crest, a peacock's tail, in a ducal coronet,

coronet, proper. *Sir Hugh Courtney*; crest, a pyramid of swans feathers, in a ducal coronet, proper. *Earl of Salisbury*; crest, a griffin sejant, or on a ducal coronet, gules. *The Prince of Wales*; the royal crest of England. *Lord Roos*; crest, a peacock in his pride, proper, standing on a chapeau.

THE INTERVIEW *between THE KING and his victorious son the BLACK PRINCE, after the battle of CRESSY, August the 26th, 1346.*

In the centre of this picture is *Edward III.* habited in a surcoat, whereon is embroidered the arms of France and England. On the King's left hand is the *Prince of Wales* in his suit of black armour, from which he was customarily styled the *Black Prince*. Behind them *Sir John Beauchamp*, bearing the royal standard, his crest upon his helmet being a swan's head argent, in a ducal coronet, gules. *John Lord Chandos*, with his crest above mentioned. *John Earl of Oxford*; crest, a boar azure, standing on a chapeau. *Richard Earl of Arundel*, &c. &c.

THE BATTLE of NEVILLE'S CROSS, October the 17th, 1346.

In the centre of this picture is the *Queen* mounted on a white horse, her arms embroidered upon her robes, &c. *Lord Percy* is on the Queen's right hand; his crest on his helmet, his arms upon his shield, or a lion rampant, azure. Behind them are several bishops, and a great many of the English nobility. In the distance are the banners of the King of Scotland: or, a lion rampant, within a double tressureflory, counterflory, gules; and sundry of the Scottish nobility with their heraldic insignia.

THE SURRENDER OF CALAIS, August the 4th, 1347.

The principal figures are the *King*, the *Queen*, the *Prince of Wales*, *Earl of Warwick*, and *Lord Stafford*; their crests on their helmets, as before.

Over the burgesses heads *the Royal Standard*, *Sir Walter Manny's banner* of his arms: or three chevronels,

chevronels, sable. Lord Basset's banner : or three fises, gules, and a Canton ermine.

The Crossing of Lord Louis de Ribermont, for his ransom, BY KING EDWARD III. January the 1st, 1349.

In the centre of this picture is **THE KING**, distinguished by the royal bearings upon his armour. On the King's right hand *Sir Walter Manny*, with his family arms upon his armour.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER, April 23, 1349. The scene of this beautiful picture is St. George's Chapel, in which a great number of eminent persons, who were present during the installation, are represented. The bishops of Salisbury and Winchester are performing the ceremony of high mass, and the sovereign, queen, and knights are kneeling round the altar. The queen is in the centre of the picture, her robe embroidered with the arms of France ancient and England, quarterly ; likewise those of Hanault and Flanders, quarterly. Near her Majesty are, *the Princess Royal*, having the arms of France and England, quarterly, on her mantle ; *Joan of Kent*, with her badge upon her left shoulder, a white hart, couchant, ducally, collared and chained ; or, upon a tree, proper ; *the Duchess of Norfolk*, her arms, England, with a label of three points, argent ; *the Queen of Scotland*, her arms on her mantle ; with a great number of others of the nobility.

The original sketch of this picture is in the possession of Mr. Beckford, of Fonthill, who has made the following remarks on its composition and general merit :

“ Above 100 figures are grouped together with such effect, and painted with so much spirit, as to raise this beautiful performance almost to a level with the happiest effusions of the pencils of Rubens and Vandyck. The colouring for richness and transparency, equals the best works of the Flemish school.

school. To the utmost powers of execution it joins the historical interest of the subjects; and the curiosity of displaying portraits of Edward III. the Black Prince, Queen Philippa, all the Royal Children, the Fair Maid of Kent, and the beautiful Countess of Kildare; with the King of Scots and Charles of Blois, then prisoners in the castle."

THE BATTLE OF POICTIERS, September the 19th, 1355.

The principal figure in this picture is the Prince of Wales; upon his helmet a plume of ostrich feathers in a coronet, which was worn by the King of Bohemia in the battle of Cressy. Among other figures are John Lord Chandos; his crest on his helmet, as before described; his shield azure, on it the Virgin Mary: or, encompassed with the rays of the sun, argent. *William Earl of Salisbury*; crest, a griffin, sejant: or a ducal coronet, gules. *John Lord Willoughby*, of Eresby: his crest a black's head, ducally, crowned, proper. PRINCE PHILIP, fourth son of the King of France; his crest a fleur-de-lis. John King of France, in a surcoat, adorned with the royal arms of France, &c. &c.

There are nearly 30 figures in this picture, all designated by their respective armorial bearings.

St. George killing the dragon, by Mr. West. This picture was painted as an accompaniment to the Institution of the Garter, of which order the Saint was constituted patron by Edward III. The subject is taken from the *Golden Legends* of Jacobus de Veragine, who lived towards the conclusion of the thirteenth century. As his work is now exceedingly scarce, we shall take the liberty of extracting, for the entertainment of our readers, the passage relative to this representation.

"Saynt George was a knyghte born at Capadose. On a tyme he came into the province of Lybia to a cyte whyche is say'd Sylene, and by this cyte was a stagne or ponde lyke a see, wherein was
a dragon

a dragon whyche envenymed all the contre, and the people of the cyte gave to him every day two sheep for to fede him; and when the sheep fayled, there was taken a man and a sheep. Thenne there was an ordaniunce made in the toune, that there should be taken the chyldren and yung people of them of the toune, by lotte, and that it so happed the lotte fyl upon the kinge's doughter, whereof the kyng was sory, and sayde, for the love of Goddes, take gold and selver and all that I have, and let me have my doughter; and the peple sayde, how Sir, ye have made and ordained the lawe, and our chyldren be now deed, and now ye would do the contrarye; your doughter shall be gyven, or else we shall burnie you and your holdes. When the kyng saw that he might no more doo, he began to weepe, and returned to the peple and demanded eight days respyte; and when the eight days were passed, then dyd the kyng araye his doughter lyke as she should be wedded, and ledde hyr to the place where the dragon was. When she was there, Saynt George passed by and demanded of the layde what she made there; and she sayde go ye your wayes fayre young man, that ye perish not also." The Legend then relates "that the dragon appered, and Saynt George upon his horse bore himself against the dragon, and smote hym with his spere, and threw hym to the ground, and delivered the layde to her father, who was baptized, and all his peple."

In the additions to the *Legenda Aurea*, by Caxton, the printer, in Edward the IVth's tyme, it is said, that in the "noble college in the castle of Wynd-sore, is the hart of Saynt George, which Sygys-munde the Emperor of Almayne, brought and gave for a great and precious relic, to King Harry the Fyfth; and also here is a pece of his hed."

The real history of St. George is involved in much obscurity. He is reported by some, to have
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been born and martyred in Cappadocia, others have considered him the offspring of a warm imagination, and the history of his actions fabulous. It is, however, certain, that he became very early the titular Saint of England, his name being found in the Martyrologies of the venerable Bede. In Gibbon's Roman History, he is traced to a fuller's shop in Epiphania. "From this obscure and servile origin," says the historian, "he raised himself by the talents of a parasite, and the patrons whom he assiduously flattered, procured for their worthless dependent a lucrative commission or contract to supply the army with bacon. His employment was mean, he rendered it infamous; he accumulated wealth by the basest arts of fraud and corruption; but his malversations were so notorious that he was compelled to escape from the pursuits of justice. After this disgrace, in which he appears to have saved his fortune at the expence of his honour, he embraced, with real or affected zeal, the profession of Arianism. He afterwards became Bishop of Alexandria, where, by his tyrannical conduct, he excited the indignation of the people to that degree, that, in a tumult, purposely raised, he was torn in pieces by the mob, and his remains thrown into the sea to prevent their receiving the future honours his superstitious votaries were expected to bestow. This intention, however, was defeated by the absurd bigotry of his Arian disciples, who introduced his worship into the bosom of the Catholic Church," where, "the odious stranger, disguising every circumstance of time and place, assumed the mark of a martyr, a saint, and a Christian hero; and the infamous George of Cappadocia has been transformed into the renowned St. George, the patron of England, Chivalry, and the Garter."

This account of the Cappadocian martyr has met with many supporters; it must not, however, be omitted, that several literary characters have con-

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tended,

tended, that the profligate Arian bishop and the celebrated champion of Christendom, were different persons.

The canopy of this room is of velvet, embroidered with gold, very rich, set up in the reign of King Charles II.

The King's Presence-chamber.—On the ceiling is Mercury with a portrait of Charles II. (an original, and a true likeness), shewing the monarch to the four quarters of the world, introduced by Neptune; Fame declaring the glory of the prince, and Time driving away Rebellion, Sedition, and their companions. Over the canopy is Justice in stone colour, shewing the arms of Britain to Thames and his river Nymphs, with the star of Venus, and this label, “Sydus Carolinum;” at the lower end of the chamber is Venus in a sea-car, drawn by Tritons and Sea-Nymphs. This ceiling is in all parts beautifully painted, and highly ornamented with gold and stone colour.

This apartment is decorated with four of the cartoons of Raphael before mentioned, and likewise the following paintings:

Peter Czar of Muscovy; Sir Godfrey Kneller. This is a full length, dated 1698, the year in which this extraordinary personage visited this country. In the back ground of this picture is shipping, by Van Diest. The Czar is represented in armour.

Prometheus and the Vulture; young Palma. *Duns Scotus*, said to have been executed by Spagnoletto. Mr. Walpole has remarked in his *Ædes Walpolianæ*, that “this picture must be ideal, as Duns Scotus died in 1308, when there was no such a thing as a tolerable painter; besides the portrait represents him as an elderly man, whereas he was not 34 when he died.” Spagnoletto was not born till nearly three centuries afterwards.

In the spacious and noble room called the King's Guard-chamber, is a large magazine of arms, viz. pikes,

pikes, pistols, guns, coats of mail, swords, halberts, bayonets, drums, &c. all beautifully disposed in colonades, pillars, circles, shields, and other devices, in a most curious manner, ranged by Mr. Harris, late gun-master of this castle. The ceiling is painted in water colours: in one circle is Peace and Plenty, and in the other Mars and Minerva. In the dome, is a representation of Mars, and the whole room is decorated with instruments of war, adapted to the chamber. Over the chimney is a whole portrait, on horseback, as large as life, of Charles XI. King of Sweden, by Van Wyck. Eight paintings of battles, sieges, &c. by Rugendas, are placed in this room on the new arrangement of paintings by his present Majesty. In this room the Knights of the Garter dine in great state at the Installation, in the absence of the Sovereign.

St. George's Hall is set apart particularly to the honour of the most illustrious order of the Garter, and is perhaps the most noble chamber in Europe, both with regard to the building and painting, which is here performed in the most exquisite taste, exhibiting the finest specimen of Verrio's performances. The centre of the ceiling is a large oval, wherein is represented Charles II. in the full habit of the order of St. George or the Garter, attended by England, Scotland, and Ireland; Religion and Plenty holding the imperial crown of these kingdoms over his head; Mars and Mercury with the emblems of war and peace, are on each side the monarch: in the same oval is Regal Government, supported by Religion and Eternity; Justice attended by Fortitude, Temperance, and Prudence, beating down Rebellion and Faction, in a hydra of evil genii, in one of which the painter is said to have introduced the Earl of Shaftesbury, a statesman of that reign, dispersing libels. On the part of the ceiling towards the throne, in an octagon, is St. George's Cross, environed with the Garter within the star or glory, supported

ported by Cupids displaying the motto, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*," with the Muses attending in full concert, and other embellishments, expressing the grandeur of the order.

On the back of the state, or sovereign's throne, is a large drapery, whereon is painted, as large as life, St. George encountering the dragon, and on the lower border of the drapery, is inscribed "*Veniendo restituit rem*," (by coming he restored the state), in allusion to King William III. who is painted under a royal canopy, in the habit of the order, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; the ascent to the throne is by five steps of fine marble, to which the painter has made an addition of five more, so admirably well done, that the spectator is agreeably deceived, and induced to believe them real. The measurement of this room in length is 108 feet 8 inches, and the whole of the north side is taken up with the triumph of Edward the Black Prince, son to the renowned Edward III. in the manner of the Romans. On the upper part of the hall is represented Edward III. the conqueror of France and Scotland, the builder of this royal castle, and the illustrious founder of the most noble order of the Garter, seated on a throne, receiving John King of France and David King of Scotland, prisoners; the prince is seated in a car in the middle of the procession, crowned with laurel, and carried by slaves, preceded by captives, and attended by the emblems of victory, and other ensigns of the Romans, with the banners of France and Scotland displayed. The painter has closed the procession with the fiction of the Countess of Salisbury, in the person of a fine lady making garlands for the prince, and a representation of the Merry Wives of Windsor, made famous by Shakespeare's muse. In this last part of the group he has humourously introduced himself in a black hood and a scarlet cloak. At the lower end of the hall is a noble music gallery, supported by four slaves larger than life, in proper

proper attitudes, beautifully carved in wood, bending as it were beneath their burthen, representing a father and his three sons, whom the valiant Black Prince made captive in his wars abroad. Over this gallery, is the following inscription:

Antonius Verrio-Neapolitanus
Non Ignobili Stirpe natus
Augustissimi Regis Carolo Secundi
Sancti et Georgii
Molem hanc Fælicissima Manu
Decoravit.

(In English.)

This grand room, belonging to the most august King Charles II. and dedicated to St. George, was ornamented by Anthony Verrio, a Neapolitan nobleman.

On the lower compartment of the ceiling is represented the collar of the order of the Garter, fully displayed: and the painting in the several parts of this room is highly finished, and heightened with gold, representing the ensigns of the Garter, to the honour of which most illustrious order this noble room is particularly set apart and dedicated; and, when the sovereign is present at the installation, the knights companions of the order dine in great state in this hall.

The chapel of St. George is situated in the middle of the lower court or ward of the castle. The first mention made of this venerable work is, that it was originally a chapel dedicated to Edward the Confessor. King Henry I. built a chapel at Windsor, dedicated to St. Edward the Confessor, and placed in it 80 canons. This chapel was rebuilt by King Henry III. who, in 1243, issued a commission to Walter de Gray, Archbishop of York, to expedite the works of the King's chapel at Windsor, directing that the workmen should proceed as well in winter as in summer, till the whole was completed; that a lofty wooden roof, like the roof of the new work at

Litchfield, should be made to appear like stone work, with good ceiling and painting; that the chapel should be covered with lead, and four gilded images be put up in it, where the king had before directed images of the same kind to be placed; and that a stone turret should be made in front of the chapel of sufficient size to hold three or four bells. Some remains of Henry the III'd's building may be seen on the north side of the dean's cloisters, and at the east end of the chapel behind the altar. King Edward II. founded a chantry for four chaplains and two clerks, and built a chapel in the park for four other chaplains, whom he afterwards removed to the chapel in the castle. Edward III. refounded it in 1332, and established it as a collegiate church in honour of the Virgin Mary, St. George, and St. Edward, King and Confessor. In the year 1349 he augmented the number of canons to 23, besides a warden, and appointed 24 poor knights, for all of whom he built habitations, and granted land for their support. In 1351 the college was settled upon a new establishment by the Bishop of Winchester, who acted as delegate for the pope. It was now made to consist of a *custos* or warden, 12 secular canons, 13 priests or vicars, four clerks, six choristers, and 26 poor or alms-knights, and other officers. In the reign of Henry IV. the title of warden was changed to that of dean. In the reign of Edward IV. the college was incorporated, and four Tuesdays in the year were set apart for commemorating the bounty of benefactors. In the 26th of Henry VIII. their revenues were 1602l. 2s. 1d. The suppressing spirit of Edward VI. excepted this free chapel from the general abolition of colleges. It now consists of a dean, 12 canons, seven minor canons, 12 lay clerks, one of whom is usually the organist, and 10 choristers. The structure owes its present form to Edward IV. and its completion to Henry VII. Sir Reginald Bray, knight of the Garter, and favourite of the monarch,

monarch finished the roof of the building ; it was elliptical, the ribs and groins, from the clustered columns supporting the cieling.

The present improved and highly elegant state in which this chapel now appears is owing to the taste and munificence of his present Majesty, who has expended upwards of 20,000*l* in its repairs and embellishments. At this period it may be regarded as the most complete and elegant specimen of what is termed the flored Gothic in the kingdom.

The choir is a pattern of the most admirable workmanship. Here lie interred, under the marble pavement, the bodies of Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour, Charles I. and a daughter of Queen Anne. Near the door of the choir, in the south aisle, sumptuously arched over by Henry VIII. lie the remains of Henry VI. There is also a monument of Edward Earl of Lincoln, Elizabeth's lord high admiral, of alabaster, and some of the pillars of porhyry.

Of the New Works, the first which attracts our notice is a magnificent gallery or arcade, whose airy pillars support the organ. They are executed, as is the whole gallery, in Coade's artificial stone ; the superior lightness and sharpness of the ornamental parts must be discerned at once ; no stone can be worked to so exquisite a degree of finish. The stile of the galleries is that of the purest Gothic. The devices, as combining with the rest of the structure, are emblematic of the order of the Garter, and referring to the patron saint. The organ was built by the late Mr. Samuel Green ; for richness and variety of tone it is said to be unequalled in this kingdom. It was the gift of his Majesty. Its case is oak, wrought in the most accurate resemblance of the Gothic style. The whole of the arcade and the organ-case were designed by and executed under the direction of Mr. Emlyn.

The floor of this chapel is entirely new laid with Gloucester stone, and every part of the stone work
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of the body of the building with the nicest care retouched, and restored to uniformity of colour.

The stalls of the sovereign and companions of the order of the Garter, are ranged on each side of the choir. Those of the King and Prince of Wales, on the right and left hands of the entrance are new, and executed under the direction of Mr. Emlyn; they are highly decorated with tracery. In the centre of that of the sovereign are the arms of the king encircled with laurel, and crowned with the royal diadem; the whole is surrounded with *fleurs de lys*, the letters G. R. and the star of the order. The panels of the different stalls are decorated with the blazon of the various knights companions, and the banners are suspended aloft of such only as have been installed. The carved devices upon the latter stalls are, his Majesty going to St. Paul's; their Majesties seated in that cathedral; the wretched attempt upon the life of the sovereign; and her majesty's bounty to the children educated at her expence in Datchet-lane.

The altar presents one of the grandest spectacles that can be conceived. The centre is the *chef d'œuvre* of West, the Last Supper, treated in a manner at once original and happy. This great master of sacred subjects, whose works are eminent for depicting the true simplicity and piety of the divine persons of the Christian history, has, among the groupe here present, bestowed all the originality of his pencil upon the countenance, figure, and attitude of Judas; the betraying fiend has got possession of him, and every line of his visage is treacherous, dark, and deadly; he is going out to give the signal that betrayed. The beautifully carved wainscot surrounding the altar is in the Gothic style. The subjects are the various emblems of the order of the Garter, designed by Mr. Thomas Sanby, and executed under the inspection of Mr. Emlyn.

Several windows of this superb fabric are beautifully

tifully painted. That above the altar, for its superior excellence is entitled to our first notice. The subject is *The Resurrection*, delineated in three compartments. This splendid production was executed between the years 1785 and 1788, by Messrs. Jarvis and Forrest, from the exquisite designs of Mr. West. The expence of the painting is said to have been upwards of four thousand pounds. On two windows, one on the north side of the altar, the other on the south, are depicted the arms of the sovereign and knights who subscribed to defray the above sum. The east window of the south aisle is painted with a very fine representation of the *Angels appearing to the Shepherds*. Upon the west window of this aisle is depicted the *Nativity of Christ*. The west window of the north aisle represents the *Adoration of the Magi*. These paintings were all designed by Mr. West, and executed by Mr. Forest, in the years 1792, 1794, and 1796. The great west window, which is at present filled with ancient stained glass, collected from various parts of the chapel is intended to be decorated with the subject of the Crucifixion, which is now executing by Forest, from a design by Mr. West.

The iron-work, formerly inclosing the tomb of Edward IV. in the left aisle, is now, at the suggestion of Mr. West, removed to the inside of the choir, parallel with the altar. This curious work came from the memorable hand of Quintin Matsis, a blacksmith of Antwerp, of whom love afterwards made a painter, and from whose pencil afterwards sprang, like magic, the famous picture of the two misers, now in the picture gallery of the castle.

Windsor Castle being the seat of honour of the most illustrious order of the Garter, the ceremonies of the installation of each knight is performed in St. George's Chapel with great state and solemnity, and it is the peculiar privilege of this chapel, that the installation, by the heroic and warlike founder, is expressly

expressly appointed to be solemnized and held therein, either by the knights themselves in person, or, on allowance from the sovereign, by their proxy. In former times the new or knights elect went in a solemn and stately procession to Windsor, attended by their friends and servants in the richest liveries, with exceeding great pomp and cavalcade ; also the procession of the knights from their lodgings in the castle to the chapel of St George, has sometimes been on horseback, but most frequently on foot, as is the present custom.

The installation or inauguration of a knight of this most noble order, consists in a conjunction of many ceremonies, established by the royal founder, and succeeding sovereigns of the order. For the greater dignity and regularity of this illustrious society, the sole ordering these ceremonies of installation belongs unto Garter, king at arms, a principal officer of the order, whose peculiar appointment is to maintain and support the dignity, and preserve the honour of this most noble order of knighthood.

On the morning of installation, the knights commissioners appointed by the sovereign to instal the new, or knights elect, meet in the great chamber in the lodgings of the dean of Windsor, dressed in the full habit of the order ; where the officers of the order also attend in their habits, and the knights elect come thither in their under habits only, bearing their caps and feathers in their hands. From the dean's hall the first procession of the knights is made into St. George's chapel, and the new knights there rest themselves behind the altar ; and are respectively introduced into the chapter-house ; and by the lords commissioners (Garter, and other officers attending) are here invested with the sur-coat or upper habit of the order, which is buckled over with a girdle of crimson velvet, and the hanger and sword also girded on ; the dean at the same time reading the several admonitions appointed by the laws and statutes

tutes of the order, which the knights elect here subscribe, and take the oaths required by the statutes. The procession of each knight elect, separately, is afterwards made into the choir, attended by the lords commissioners, and other companions of the order, down the north aisle, and preceded by the poor knights, prebends, heralds, pursuivants, and other officers of the order in their several habits, Garter, king at arms, bearing the robes, great collar, and george, of each knight, on a crimson velvet cushion. On entering the choir, after reverence made to the altar and the sovereign's stall, the knights are conducted to their several seats or stalls, under their respective banners and other ensigns of honour; and with great state and reverence this most solemn part of the installation is performed, and here the knight is completely dressed, and invested with the mantle of the order, and the great collar of St. George.

After the solemnity of installation, the knights make their solemn offerings at the altar; and, prayers being ended, the grand procession of the knights from the choir, in the full habits of their order, with their caps and plumes of feathers on their heads, (which are frequently richly adorned and surrounded with diamonds) is made round the body of the church, and, passing out at the south door, the procession is continued in great state through the courts of the castle into St. George's Hall, preceded by his majesty's music.

After the knights have rested for some time in the royal apartments, a sumptuous dinner or banquet is prepared in St. George's Hall, if the sovereign be present; and in his absence in the great guard chamber, next adjoining; and the knights are introduced and dine in the habits of the order, and a band of music attending. Garter, king at arms, before dinner is ended, proclaims the style and dignity of each knight, after which the company retire, and the evening

evening is closed with a ball for the ladies in the royal lodgings. This procession of the knights of the garter, and the whole ceremony of installation, is most noble and stately.

The habit of a knight of the garter, in richness and majesty surpasses the dress of all other orders of knighthood, and is suitable to the high dignity of this illustrious society, which stands foremost in honour and renown among the princes of Europe.

The order of the Garter was instituted by Edward III. king of England and France, in the year 1349, in the 23d year of his reign, for the improvement of military honour and the reward of virtue ; it is also called the order of St. George, the renowned patron of England, under whose banner the English army always marched to the field of battle ; and the cross of St. George was appointed the ensign of this most noble order ; at the same time the sovereign appointed the Garter to be the principal mark of distinction of the order, and to be worn by the knights on the left leg ; not from any regard to a lady's garter, as has idly prevailed among the vulgar, and improved by the fancy of poets and painters, contrary to truth and history, but as a tie or band of association in honour and military virtue to bind the knights companions strictly to himself and each other, in friendship and true agreement, and as an ensign or badge of unity and combination, to promote the honour of God, and the glory and interest of their prince and sovereign.

Further, King Edward, being at this time engaged in prosecuting by arms his right to the crown of France, caused the following French motto, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*, to be wrought in letters of gold round the garter, declaring thereby the purity and equity of his intention in this his institution, and at the same time to retort shame and defiance upon him that should dare to think ill of his royal intent in this noble institution of honour, and of the just enterprize

terprize he had undertaken for the support of his right to that crown. A more general account of the order of the garter is given in a book called the History and Antiquities of Windsor Castle, published in 4 to. wherein the institution, laws, and ceremonies, of this most noble establishment of honour are treated at large, with the statutes of the order, and a catalogue of the knights companions, from the first foundation to the present time, by which it is evident that there is no royal or princely family in Europe, but has been of the company of this most illustrious society, which from its first institution, now more than four hundred years since, has flourished with great splendour and glory, and been the most distinguished mark of honour amongst the princes of Europe, the reward of merit, and great and heroic deeds.

A knight of the Garter may be elected ; but according to the statutes of the order, they are not deemed knights companions, nor are they entitled to the full honours of the order, till they have been duly installed with the ceremonies of honour in St. George's Chapel, at Windsor ; as in the case of the late Earl of Halifax, who was elected a knight companion April 23, 1764, but, dying before his installation, is not inserted in the catalogue of knights companions. When a knight is found guilty of violating the statutes of the order he may be degraded, as the Duke of Ormond was in the reign of George I.

The return from St. George's Chapel is into the Queen's Guard Chamber, or first room of entrance, and this closes the several state apartments that are shewn to the public : the other apartments are not open but when the court resides at Windsor ; they consist of many beautiful rooms, with paintings by the best masters, and it must be confessed, besides the great beauty of the situation, the several apartments that compose this palace and castle are most spacious and noble, worthy a monarch of Great Britain,

Britain, and not exceeded by the most boasted palaces of foreign princes. The inner, or Horn-court, as commonly called, from a pair of stag's horns, of exceeding largeness, measuring ten feet in width, taken in the forest, and set up in this court, is usually looked into by strangers. From this court, by a flight of stone steps, the entrance is into the King's Guard Chamber before mentioned. In a cavity under these steps, and fronting this court, is represented a figure of Hercules. On the dome over the steps is painted the battle of the Gods, and on the sides of the staircase is a representation of the four ages of the world, and two battles of the Greeks and Romans, in fresco.

The most striking object on the return from the royal apartments, is the keep, or round tower. This was formerly called the middle ward, dividing the two courts of the castle. To what has been before observed, may be here added, that the lodgings of the governor command a most extensive view to London, and, it is said, into twelve counties. They also tell you, that in the guard chamber are the coats of mail of John king of France, and David king of Scotland, both prisoners here at the same time. The royal standard is raised on this tower on state holidays, and the residence of the king, or the royal family. On the opposite corner of the royal building is King John's Tower, so named from being the apartment assigned to that prince when prisoner in England.

The following *Jeu d' esprit* was written on the installation, which took place in 1742, and said to have been from the pen of the Earl of Chesterfield :

“ As Anstis was trotting away from the chapter,
 'Extremely in drink, and extremely in rapture,
 Scarce able his bible and statutes to carry,
 Up started the spectre of jolly King Harry.

As

As on march'd the nobles he eyed them all o'er,
 When seeing such knights as he ne'er saw before,
 With things on their shoulders, and things on their
 knees,

"Ha! ha!" cried the king, "what companions are
 these?"

Are they such from their colours who never have fled?
 Are they honestly born? are they honestly bred?
 Have they honestly liv'd without blame or disgrace?
 Odds flesh! Master Garter I like not their face!"

"Please your grace," quoth the squire, "how can
 we keep rules?"

We must make April knights, or else April fools!

But faith! of the first I can tell you no more,
 Than that he's the son of a son of a whore.

The next who shall answer for lewdness of life;

Has no man but he hurt another man's wife?

His Cordon of France was a pitiful thing,

But England affords him a much finer string.

The third of these knights, as he chang'd once before,

We have made him true blue that he ne'er may change
 more:

And now cross his shoulder the collar is drawn,
 That his grace may have one thing he never can pawn.

That short bit of ribbon, for man never meant,
 May serve little Portland—it served little Kent:

Tho' stain'd and defil'd by that nasty old bug,

What tied an old monkey, may tie a young pug.

The times, Sir, are altered, and riches are all,

And honours—folks now take them up as they fall,

They pay, like good fellows, the charge of their string,

The king saves his money, and—God save the king."

Journey from Lambourne to Newbury.

LAMBOURNE,

Is a small market town of great antiquity, pleasantly situated in an open country, seven miles from Hungerford. In a charter, dated 1227, granting a fair to be held on the festival of St. Matthew, this place is

called *Cheping Lambourn*; we have before had occasion to observe that *cheping* signifies *market*.

The manor of Lambourn was part of the possessions of King Alfred, and was given by him to his wife, Ealhswith, daughter of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, who survived her husband four years and died in 964.

In Edward the Confessor's reign, and at the time of making the doomsday survey, Lambourne was part of the royal demesne. In 1644 King Charles I. was here with his army soon after the second battle of Newbury.

The parish is very extensive, comprising the whole of the hundred to which it gives name. The number of inhabitants in the town and its hamlets, according to the returns made under the population act, in 1801, was 2045.

The market, which is held on Friday, has of late years much declined. There are now three fairs, on the 12th of May, the 4th of October, and 4th of December. In the market-place is a cross, consisting of a tall plain shaft, with an ornamented capital, on an ascent of steps.

The parish Church is a very handsome and spacious Gothic structure, in form of a cross. There are two chantry chapels on the south side, one of which, dedicated to St. Mary, was founded by John Estbury, or Isbury, who died in 1372. The other, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, by his descendant, of the same name, who died in 1485, as appears by the epitaphs on their tombs. In the centre of the southern chapel is an altar tomb, on which is the effigies of the founder John Isbury, in copper, habited in a surcoat, with his arms enamelled.

In this chapel there are also some memorials of the family of Hipposley.

In the north transept is the monument of Sir Thomas Essex, who died in 1558, with the effigies of himself and Margaret his lady, in alabaster.

On

On the north side of the church is an hospital for ten poor men, founded by John Isbury, son of John Isbury, who died in 1485, as above mentioned. This hospital was liable to be dissolved at the Reformation, on account of its popish regulations, but was continued by an act of parliament, passed in the 31st year of Queen Elizabeth, under which a new set of regulations was ordained by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and other commissioners appointed for that purpose. It was determined in 1589 that Francis Alford (the representative of the founder) and his heirs, and the wardens of New College, Oxford, should have the appointment of the poor men, and that the said Francis Alford, and his sons, should have the management of the estates. The Rev. John Hippesley, of Stow in Gloucestershire, is now joint pervisor with the wardens of New College. The will of the founder mentions one of the chapels as having been built by himself, but it is more probable that he only rebuilt it. The alms-men of the hospital attend divine service every morning in the southern chapel above-mentioned, kneeling round the tomb of the founder's father, which is surrounded with a frame, desk, and cushions, for that purpose. A copy of the prayer that is now used hangs up in the chapel. It is probable that it was composed by the commissioners under the act of Queen Elizabeth for the continuance of the hospital, or altered by them so as to adapt it to the reformed religion. The original pension of the alms-men was eight pence a week each; they now receive three shillings a week each, besides a guinea at Christmas, and three loads of wood each; the reserved rents of 74 bushels and a half of wheat, and 51 bushels and a half of malt, are divided among them: Great coats are given to them every other year, and they receive some other small payments in money.

The manor of East Garston, about two miles and

a half from Lambourne, and about ten from Newbury, was the property of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, in right of his wife Blanch. It was held by the service of finding a knight clad in plate armour to serve in the king's army for forty days, at the lord's cost, whenever he should be in territory of Kedwelly, in Wales, of which manor this was a member.

In the parish church are memorials of the families of Gastrell, and of the Elsyngs, descended from Henry Elsyng, clerk of the House of Lords, in the reign of Charles I. and keeper of his majesty's records in the tower of London.

The residue of this route we have already described in a former journey.

Journey from Henley to Maidenhead.

In the parish of Remenham, about a mile and a half from Henley-upon-Thames, is **PARK PLACE**, the well-known seat of the late Field-Marshal Conway, now belonging to the Earl of Malmsbury. The house was considerably enlarged by Marshal Conway, and the grounds, which possess peculiar natural advantages, were laid out by him with great taste and attention to the character of the surrounding scenery. Park Place was purchased of the late Countess Dowager of Aylesbury, Marshal Conway's widow. His lordship has considerably improved the house, which contains a noble library, partly inherited from his father James Harris, Esq. the celebrated philologist, and partly purchased by himself on the continent during his foreign embassies; the building is composed of brick, cased with a yellowish stucco. One of the most striking situations in the park is a secluded valley, planted with fine groups of trees; at the upper end is a Grecian Ruin very happily designed and executed, and at the bottom a rustic arch, over which the road passes from Henley to Wargrave. Underneath is seen the river.

On

On a fine hill, a little beyond the pleasure grounds, is placed a small Druidical Temple, found near St. Hilier, in the island of Jersey, and presented by the inhabitants to General Conway, as a testimony of the respect and gratitude due to his vigilance as a governor, and his amiable qualities as a man.

This singular and curious gift was accompanied by the following appropriate inscription, cut on a large slab now placed among the stones of the temple.

“Cet ancien Temple des Druides
decouvert le 12 me. Août, 1785,
sur le Montagne de St. Hilier
dans l'Isle de Jersey ;
a été présenté par les Habitans
à son Excellence le General Conway
leur Gouverneur.

Pour des siècles caché, aux regards des mortels
Cet ancien monument, ces pierres, ces autels,
Où le sang des humains offert en sacrifice,
Ruissela, pour des Dieux, qu'enfantoit le caprice.
Ce monument, sans prix par son antiquité,
Temoignera pour nous à la postérité,
Que dans tous les dangers Cesarée eut un père,
Attentif, et vaillant, genereux, et prospere :
Et redira, Conway, aux siècles à venir,
Qu'en vertu du respect dû à ce souvenir,
Eile se fit ce don, acquis à ta vaillance,
Comme un juste tribut de sa reconnoissance.”

The stones composing this temple are also standing, and have been erected on this spot in their original circular position. They were discovered in the year 1785, on the summit of a rocky hill near the town of St. Hilier, by some workmen, who were employed to level the ground, as a place of exercise for the military.

The circumference of the circle is 66 feet ; the
highest

highest of the stones nearly opposite the entrance about nine feet. They are from four to six feet in breadth, and from one to three in thickness. The entrance, or passage, measures 15 feet in length; five in breadth, and four in height. The circle opening to the area contains five cells or recesses, varying in depth from two feet four inches to four feet three inches. These cells and the entrance are covered with stones, from 18 inches to two feet thick. This curious structure appears to be a combination of the Cromlech, the Kistvaen, the stones of memorial, and the pure Druidical or Barden circle, all which we have in the course of our work had occasion to describe.

About four miles from Henley-on-Thames is HURLEY, which at the time of the Norman survey belonged to Geoffrey de Magnaville, ancestor of the Magnavilles or Mandevilles, Earls of Essex. It was granted to him by William the Conqueror, as a reward for his gallant conduct in the battle of Hastings. In the year 1086 he formed a monastery here for Benedictines, and endowed it with the manor of Hurley and other lands. It was afterwards made a cell to Westminster Abbey. At the Dissolution in 1535 its revenues were valued at 121l. 8s. 5d. per annum. The site, called Lady Place (the monastery having been dedicated to the Virgin Mary) was granted in 1545 to Leonard Chamberlayne, and not long afterwards came, together with the manor of Hurley, into the possession of John Lovelace, Esq. who died in 1558. It continued in his family until sold by John Lord Lovelace, who is said to have been very instrumental in bringing about the Revolution.

The present mansion was erected in 1600, by Sir Richard Lovelace, on the ruins of the ancient building. The remains of the monastery may be traced in the numerous apartments, which occupy the west end of the house; and in a vault beneath the hall some bodies, in the monkish habit, have been found buried. Part of the chapel or refectory also
may

may yet be seen in the stables ; the window frames of which are of chalk, and, though made in the time of the Conqueror, appear as fresh as if they were of modern workmanship.

Lady Place, with some lands in the parish of Hurley, were purchased by Mrs. Williams, sister of Dr. Willocks, bishop of Rochester, who had the singular good fortune, though she possessed but two tickets, of gaining a prize of 500*l.* and another of 20,000*l.* in the same lottery. Gustavus Adolphus Kempenfelt, Esq. is the present proprietor.

This seat was fitted up with great splendour by the above mentioned John Lord Lovelace, in the reign of King William. The hall and staircase are magnificent, and remarkably spacious. On the principal story is the grand saloon ; the cieling of which is enriched with paintings of figures, and the pannels are painted with upright landscapes ; the leafings of which are executed in a kind of silver lacker. The views are Italian and are commonly reported to have been executed by Salvator Rosa. They are about 50 in number, coarsely painted, in a free style, with the lights heightened by gilding ; they do not bear any resemblance to the works of the great master to whom they are ascribed. In the parlour is a portrait of the unfortunate Admiral Kempenfelt (brother to the present owner of Lady Place) who was lost in the Royal George.

Under the hall is a vault, in which, according to tradition, the principal nobility, during the reign of James II. held frequently secret meetings for the purpose of promoting the Revolution of 1688. It is reported also that the principal compacts and treaties in this great affair were signed in the dark recess at the end of the vault. When King William visited Lord Lovelace, after his establishment on the throne, he was taken by his host to see this vault. These traditionary anecdotes are recorded on a tablet placed at the end of the vault by the
late

late Mr. Wilcox. He has also recorded a visit of General Paoli to this vault in 1780, and of his present Majesty in 1785.

The chapel of the convent, now the parish Church, stands on the opposite side of a quadrangle. It was dedicated by Osmund, bishop of London in the year 1086. The circular arches at the west end, with zig zag ornaments, are, it is most probable, part of the original structure. In the church is a brass plate in memory of John Doyley, Esq. with the date 1492, in Arabic numerals. There are also some monuments of the Lovelace family.

At BISHAM, near Hurley, there was a preceptory for knights templars, to whom Robert de Ferrars had given the manor in the time of King Stephen.—The templars had granted it away before their dissolution to Hugh Spencer, and it afterwards came to William Mountacute, earl of Salisbury, who in the year 1338, built a priory here for canons regular of the order of Saint Austin, which, at the Dissolution, was found to be endowed with 285*l.* 11*s.* per annum. After the prior and convent had surrendered this monastery, King Henry VIII. refounded it, with lands of other dissolved monasteries, to the value of 66*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* per annum, for the maintenance of an abbot, who was to have the privilege of wearing a mitre, and thirteen Benedictine monks. But this new institution was of short continuance; for three years afterwards it was surrendered a second time, and in the seventh year of Edward VI. it came into lay hands. In both surrenders it is called the conventual church of the Holy Trinity: yet in the charter of the first foundation it was said to be dedicated to our Lord and the Virgin, and in that of the second to the Virgin alone.

King Edward VI. granted the site of the abbey to his father's repudiated wife Anne of Cleves. It is now the seat of George Vansittart, Esq. There are

no remains of the conventual buildings, except an ancient door-way, now the entrance of the house.

In the parish of Bray, about two miles south from Maidenhead, is **MONKEY ISLAND**, so called from a small rustic building, erected on this spot by the late Duke of Marlborough, and to which he gave the name of Monkey Hall. On the ceiling of this apartment is painted a variety of such flowers as grow by the water side ; here are also represented several monkeys, some fishing, some shooting, and one sitting in a boat smoaking, while a female is rowing him over a river. In another building called the Temple, also erected by the duke, the inside of the saloon is enriched by stucco-modelling, representing mermaids, dolphins, sea-lions, and a variety of fish and shells, richly gilt. The island contains about three acres. The establishment of this delightful retreat is said to have cost the duke upwards of 10,000*l*. The lease of it for thirty years, at 25*l*. a year, was sold by auction, in July 1787, for 240 guineas, to Henry Townley Ward, Esq. This gentleman has a seat in the neighbourhood, between Bray and Windsor, called *The Willows*. The prospect from hence of the noble buildings of Windsor and Eton has been by Mr. Ireland in his picturesque views on the Thames, unequalled.

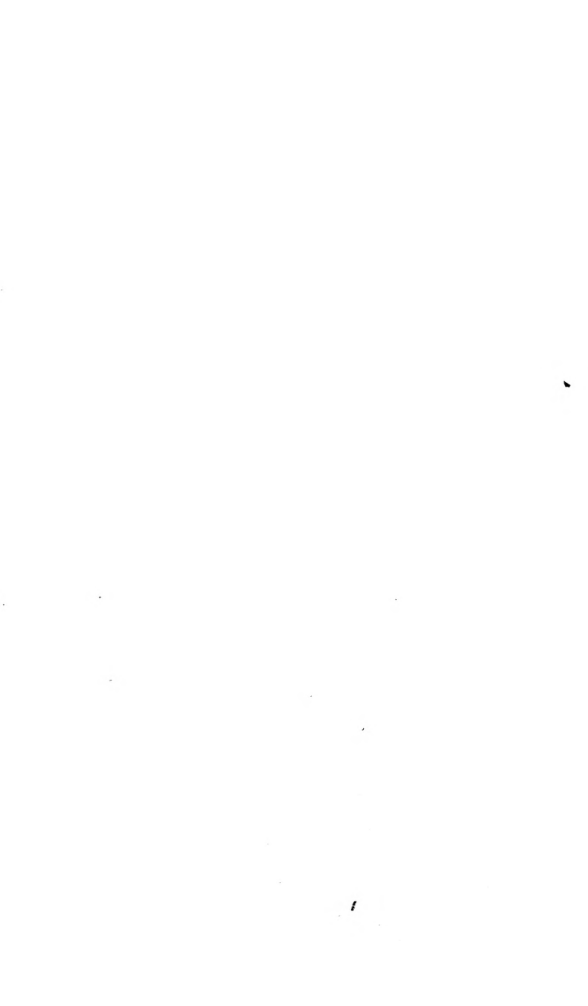
END OF DESCRIPTION OF BEKESHIRE.



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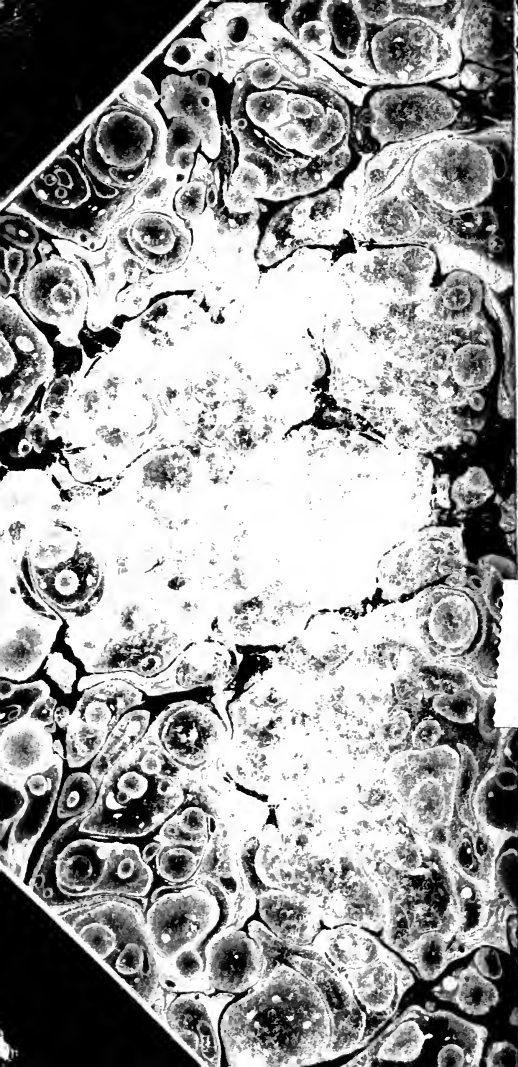


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